



MARVEL
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the X-MEN

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THE
LOCUST!

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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM ALL TIME!

"THE PLAGUE OF THE LOCUST!"

I HOPE YOU WON'T MIND, PROFESSOR, IF I BORROW THESE VOLUMES ON **TELEKINETIC RESEARCH!** WITH THEM, I CAN CONTINUE TO STUDY WAYS TO UTILIZE MY MUTANT POWER, EVEN WHEN I'M... **GONE!**

I'LL RETURN THEM TO YOU... AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

THE SCHOOL WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT MARVEL GIRL, WILL IT, SCOTT?

NO, BOBBY, I... GUESS NOT!

AND, NEITHER WILL I... EVER!

FOR MONTHS, I'VE WANTED JEAN TO RETURN MY AFFECTION FOR HER! AND NOW, JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE, I MAY HAVE LOST HER... FOR GOOD!

YOU MAY KEEP THEM, JEAN... WITH OUR COMPLIMENTS! CONSIDER THEM A PARTING GIFT FROM... THE X-MEN!

SHAKESPEARE EXPOSTULATED THAT PARTING IS SWEET SORROW... I WONDER IF PERCHANCE THE BARD MIGHT HAVE BEEN A MUTANT!

JUST IN CASE THIS EMOTION-DRENCHED SCENE LEAVES ANY MIXED-UP MARVELITES FEELING AS IF THEY'VE MISSED SOMETHING, ALLOW US TO QUICKLY FILL YOU IN! AT THE CONCLUSION OF LAST ISH'S EPIC BATTLE WITH THE MALEVOLENT MAGGIA, A SADDENED JEAN GREY RECEIVED A SHOCKING LETTER!

UN-AWARE OF HER DUAL ROLE AS ONE OF THE SUPER-POWERED X-MEN, HER PARENTS HAVE WITHDRAWN HER FROM PROFESSOR XAVIER'S PRIVATE SCHOOL... AND ARE SENDING HER TO A MORE CONVENTIONAL COLLEGE!

EDITING BY: STAN (BEE) LEE

SCRIPT BY: ROY (BOOK-WORM) THOMAS

ART BY: WERNER (WORKER-ANT) ROTH

INKING BY: DICK (DOODLE-BUG) AYERS

LETTERING BY: SAM (PUSSY-CAT) ROSEN

MOM AND DAD FEEL THAT, SINCE WE FORMALLY GRADUATED SOME TIME AGO*, IT'S TIME I PURSUED A COLLEGE DEGREE... ELSE-WHERE!

PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT! BESIDES, SINCE YOU'LL BE ATTENDING METRO COLLEGE, WHICH ISN'T FAR AWAY, YOU CAN VISIT US OFTEN!

* IN 15H #7-- WE THINK! ...INSECURE STAN.

YES...I CAN, NOW, EXCUSE ME, PLEASE... I MUST.. CHANGE!

CHANGE, MY EYE! THOSE WERE TEAR-DROPS I SAW AS SHE RAN UPSTAIRS! PROFESSOR, CAN'T WE...?

NO, WARREN... WE CAN DO NOTHING! THIS MATTER IS BETWEEN JEAN AND HER PARENTS! WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT ONE DAY SHE RETURNS... TO STAY!

MEANWHILE, WHEN SHE COMES DOWN, WE MUST TRY TO MAKE LEAVING EASIER FOR HER!

BOBBY, BRING ME OUR PRESENT, PLEASE!

AND SO, WHEN AN OUTWARDLY-COMPOSED MARVEL GIRL REJOINS THE DECEPTIVELY JOVIAL GROUP...

SAY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WERE MADE TO WEAR THOSE COLLEGIATE THREADS!

WHY, THANK YOU, WARREN! BUT... WHAT'S THAT, PROFESSOR?

YOU DIDN'T THINK WE'D LET YOU GO WITH JUST A COUPLE OF MUSTY TEXT-BOOKS TO REMEMBER US BY, DIDJA?

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS CORSAGE, JEAN... IT'S FROM ALL OF US!

THE BEAST ECHOES ICEMAN'S SENTIMENTS... THOUGH I SEE NO REASON FOR HIS UNSEENLY SLUR AGAINST TEXTBOOKS!

I'LL TREASURE IT... ALWAYS!

I WON'T CRY IN FRONT OF THEM... I WON'T!

BUT, ALL MY LIFE, I'LL REMEMBER THIS DAY... AND BE GLAD THAT I WAS PRIVILEGED FOR A TIME AT LEAST, TO BE ONE OF THEM!

THEN, AFTER THE OTHERS HAVE SAID THEIR FAREWELLS TO JEAN, SCOTT AND WARREN SILENTLY DRIVE THE GIRL. THEY BOTH LOVE TOWARDS METRO COLLEGE, AS ALL THREE THINK THEIR OWN INNERMOST THOUGHTS...

JOHNNY STORM GOES TO METRO! HE CAN FLY, JUST LIKE I CAN! I WONDER IF JEAN'LL GET INTERESTED IN HIM?

ALL THE X-MEN SEEMED SO SORRY I WAS GOING... EXCEPT SCOTT! HE HASN'T SPOKEN TEN WORDS ALL MORNING!

CAN'T HE SEE THAT I'LL MISS HIM... MORE THAN ANYONE?

IF ONLY I DARED HOLD HER IN MY ARMS... AND TELL HER HOW MUCH I NEED HER! BUT I CAN'T... NOT UNTIL I'M CURED OF THE CURSE OF MY DEADLY EYES!

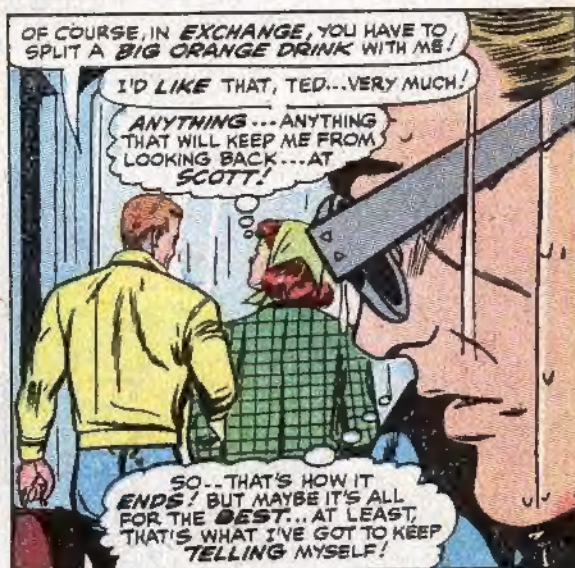
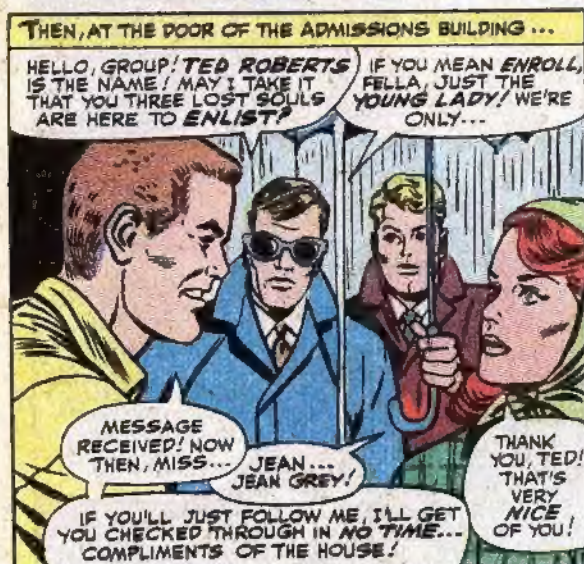
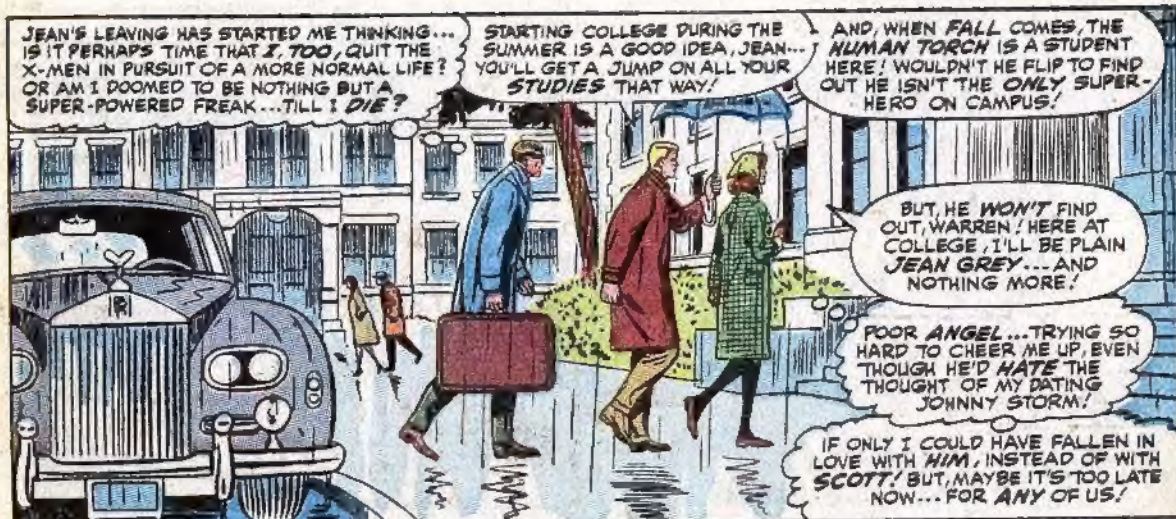
FINALLY, AS THE TORRENTIAL DOWNPOUR CONTINUES, THE SOMBRE, REGAL SEDAN ARRIVES AT THE ENROLLMENT CENTER...

HERE, JEAN... LET ME TAKE YOUR SUIT-CASE!

THANK YOU, SCOTT!

THAT TONE IN HIS VOICE... ALMOST AS IF HE... BUT I'M IMAGINING THINGS! HE NEVER CARED FOR ME... AND NEVER WILL!

LET'S HURRY INSIDE, JEAN... YOU'LL CATCH A COLD OUT HERE IN THE RAIN!



AND, INDEED, THE WORLD *BEGINS* TO LEARN OF ITS FANTASTIC DANGER ALMOST AT ONCE, AS...

KRUNCH! KRUNCH! KRUNCH!

LISTEN...! DO YOU HEAR THAT CHOMPING SOUND, CORA?

MMM? I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU HAVING AN EARLY BREAK-FAST!

IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING... GO BACK TO SLEEP!

BUT, CURIOSITY IS A POWERFUL FORCE, AND...

NOW, WE'LL JUST SEE WHAT...

WHAT IS IT, HENRY? WHAT'S WRONG?

CORA! FOR HEAVENS SAKE, COME HERE... QUICK!

I...I CAN'T DESCRIBE IT! YOU'VE GOT TO SEE FOR YOURSELF!

PERHAPS TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER SPOKEN! FOR, AS THE FARMER AND HIS WIFE GAZE IN UTTER ASTONISHMENT, AN INCREDIBLE, ALMOST NIGHTMARISH SCENE MEETS THEIR STARTLED EYES...

EAT HEARTILY, MY SIX-LEGGED SUBJECTS!

FOR, WITH EACH TENDER MORSEL THAT YOU DEVOUR, YOU INCREASE IN SIZE! ALREADY, YOU ARE HUNDREDS OF TIMES LARGER THAN YOUR FELLOW INSECTS... AND THAT IS BUT THE BEGINNING!

TOO LONG HAVE LESSER MORTALS LORDED IT OVER THIS ABUNDANT PLANET! IT IS NOT THE WEAK WHO MUST INHERIT THE EARTH, BUT THE STRONG... AND WE ARE THE STRONG!

NOTE TO ARMCHAIR PSYCHOLOGISTS: IF, AS YOU READ ON, IT SEEMS TO YOU THAT OUR ORTHOPTEROUS ANTAGONIST HAS A DISTINCT FASCIST FIXATION, PLEASE FORWARD ALL ANALYSES TO MIGHTY MARVEL... WE'RE STILL TRYIN' TO FIGURE HIM OUT!
... STAN AND THE GANG.

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

MORE MARVEL MASTERPIECES...



**NOW
ON SALE!**

BUT, MEANWHILE, THE INCREDULOUS FARMER HAS PHONED THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES... AND, AS MORNING DAWNS...

BY THE TIME I COULD LOAD MY GUN, THE OVERSIZED CRITTERS HAD ALREADY LEVELED MY FIELD... AND HOPPED AWAY!

WHAT'S MORE, I'D SWEAR ONE OF 'EM WAS HALF HUMAN!

SURE, MISTER! AND AT WHAT TIME DID THE GOOD FAIRIES COME FLYIN' BY?

DON'T SHRUG OFF HIS STORY TOO FAST, MARV! SOMETHING CERTAINLY RAZED THIS PLACE... AND IT WASN'T PINK ELEPHANTS!

PERSONALLY, IN THIS DAY AND AGE, I WOULDN'T EVEN BET THAT WAS IMPOSSIBLE!

A FEW HOURS LATER, AS THE X-MEN GO THROUGH THEIR PACES IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY...

LOOK ALIVE, ANGEL! YOU BARELY CLEARED ICEMAN'S HOOP!

KEEP YOUR GOGGLES ON, CYKE! THE WORLD WOULDN'T CRUMBLE IF I HIT IT!

TRANSLATION: WITH JEAN ABSENT, THERE'S NO ONE TO HEAP APPROBATION UPON HIS PEERLESS PERFORMANCE!

THANKS, BEAST! NOW IF SOMEBODY'LL JUST TRANSLATE YOUR TRANSLATION!

OH OH! HEADS UP, COMPATRIOTS! HERE COMES THE PROFESSOR!

I'M AFRAID YOUR TRAINING SESSION IS OVER FOR THE PRESENT! I'VE JUST HEARD ALARMING REPORTS ON THE RADIO... REPORTS OF GIANT LOCUSTS DEVASTATING A SERIES OF FARMS UPSTATE!

IF THIS INFORMATION IS TRUE, THESE HUGE INSECTS ARE POSSIBLY MUTATIONS... AND THAT MAKES THEM THE BUSINESS OF... THE X-MEN!

BEFORE LONG...

BOY, PROFESSOR, OUR HIGH-SPEED COPTER CAN REALLY TRAVEL! EVEN THE NATIONAL GUARD HASN'T HAD TIME TO MAKE THE SCENE YET!

THAT, BOBBY, IS PRECISELY WHY WE MUST MAKE OUR INVESTIGATIONS QUICKLY! I WANT TO AVOID ASSOCIATING THIS MENACE WITH THE X-MEN IN THE MIND OF THE PUBLIC!

AH, THERE'S OUR QUARRY, DIRECTLY BELOW! PREPARE FOR LANDING!

HOLY COW... LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THOSE BABIES!

BUT, THERE ARE ONLY A DOZEN OF 'EM, AT MOST!

PERHAPS, FOR NOW! BUT, THOSE IN TURN MIGHT BREED COUNTLESS OTHERS!

AND THEN WHERE WOULD MANKIND BE?

KRUNCH! KRAK!

WHILE, UNOBSERVED BY THE MARVELOUS MUTANTS, IN A NEARBY GROVE...

THE X-MEN! I AM NOT YET PREPARED TO FACE THEM! BUT, NO MATTER....

THIS EXPERIMENT HAS SERVED ITS PURPOSE! I SHALL BIDE MY TIME...AND STRIKE AGAIN!

GOSH, IT SEEMS STRANGE TO BE GOING INTO ACTION WITHOUT MARVEL GIRL!

NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT, ICEMAN! PROFESSOR XAVIER WANTS ONE OF THESE CREATURES FOR STUDY!

NO SOONER SAID THAN DONE, DAUNTLESS DEPUTY LEADER!

NOTICE, GROUP, WITH WHAT GUILELESS GRACE THE GRANDILOQUENT BEAST ACCOSTS HIS PERPLEXED PREY!

RESTRAIN YOURSELF, INVERTEBRATE! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE APPREHENDING YOU!

HHMM...THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE MORE IN YOUR DEPARTMENT, ANGEL! CARE TO LEND AN ASSIST?

THUMP!

KUH-PWANG!

JUST HANG ON, BEASTIE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE HARD PART!

THEN, SWIFTLY ASCENDING TO A GREATER HEIGHT, THE WINGED WARRIOR SWOOPS AT HIS TARGET WITH DAZZLING SPEED...

A GOOD POWER-DIVE SHOULD GIVE ME ENOUGH FORCE TO BUG OUR LITTLE PLAYMATE!

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MY BIRD-LIKE BENEFACTOR, I'LL FORGIVE YOUR SOMEWHAT UN-IMAGINATIVE ATTEMPT AT HUMOR!

THANKS MUCHLY!

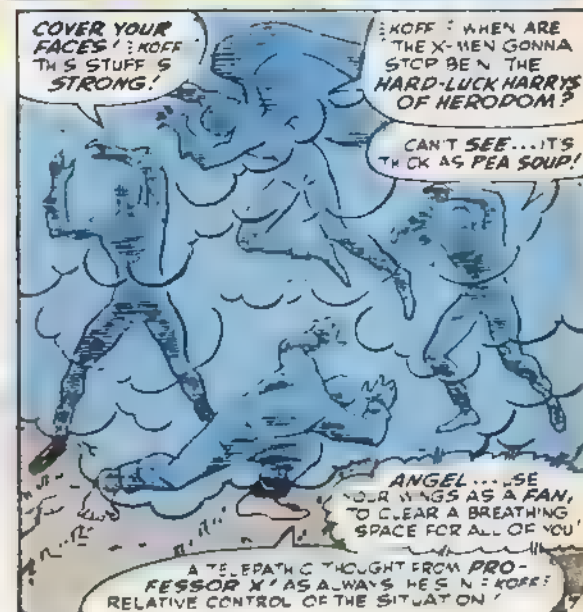
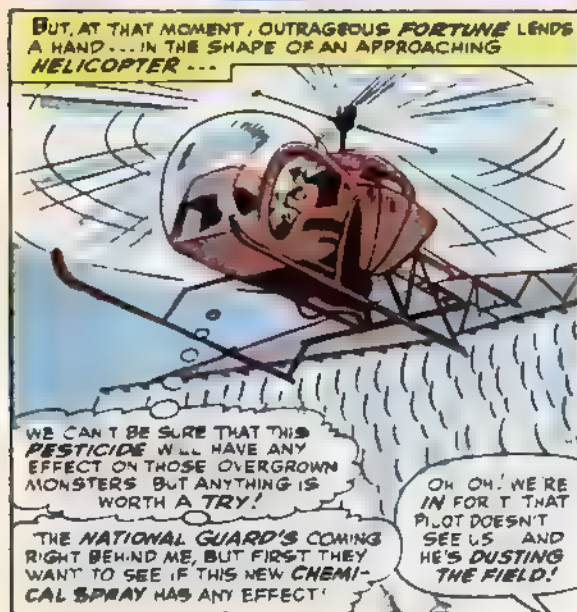
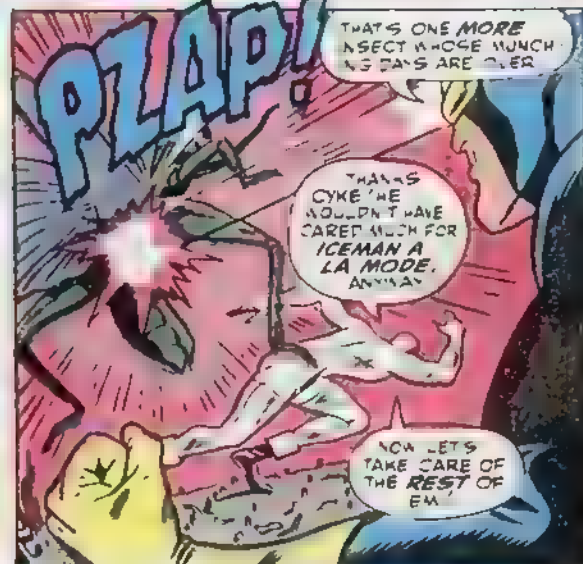
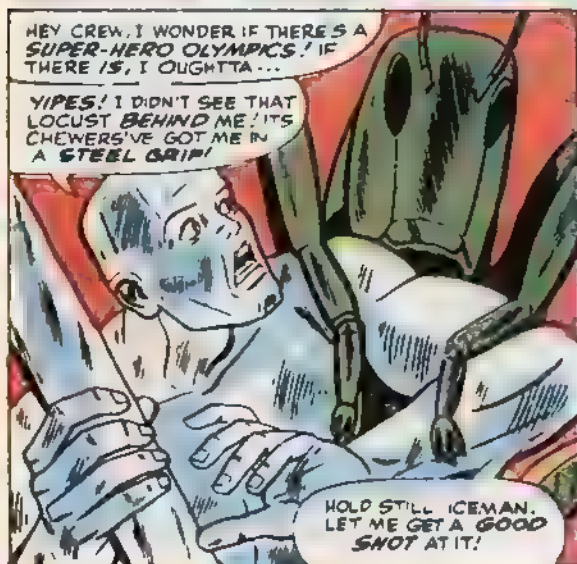
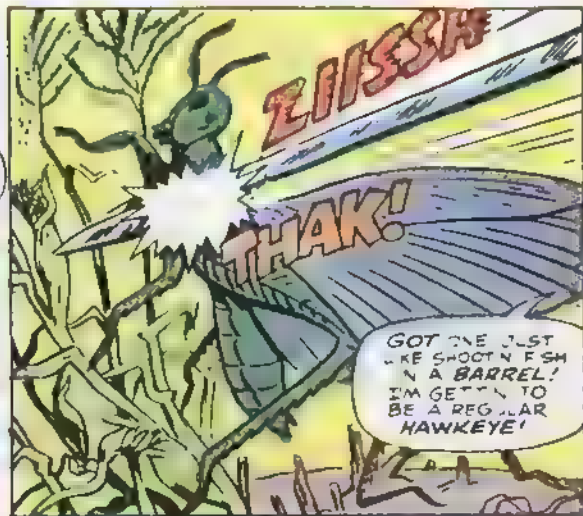
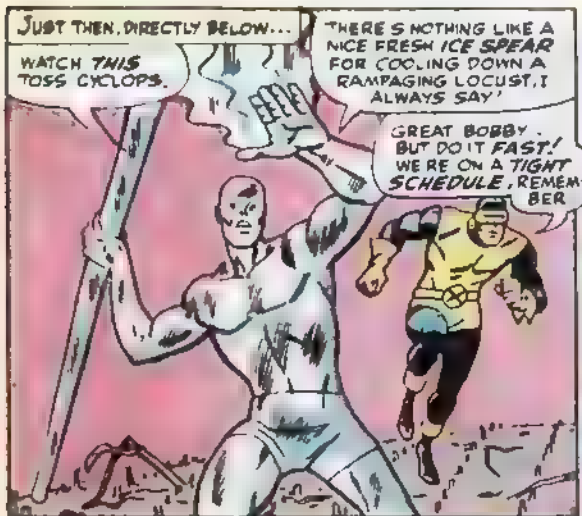
BWAK!

THAT FINISHED HIM! HE'S DROPPING LIKE A STONE!

FOR ALL THEIR SIZE, THESE LOCUSTS ARE RELATIVELY DEFENSELESS!

AGAINST A SUPER-POWERED MUTANT, YES! BUT, AN ORDINARY HOMO SAPIENS WOULD HARDLY FARE SO WELL!

ALSO, WHAT IF EVERY LOCUST ON EARTH BECAME SO LARGE? THAT'S WHAT DISTURBS THE PROFESSOR!





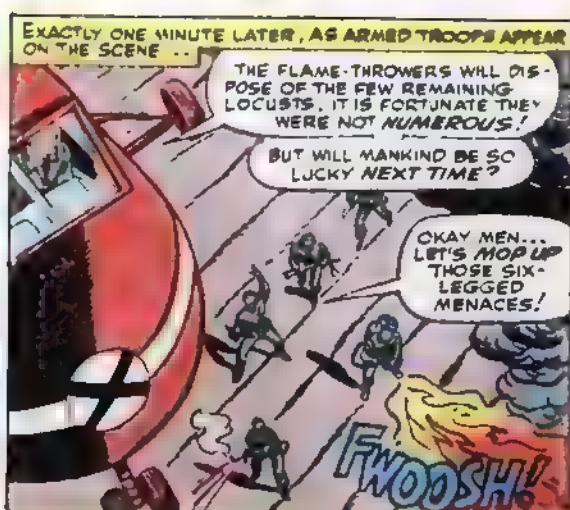
AND AS THE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL CARRIES OUT HIS ORDERS...

YOU'RE A FRIEND IN NEED WARRIOR BOY!

BUT I'M AFRAID OUR BUDDY STRUCK OUT! THE INSECTS WEREN'T Fazed!

X-MEN: SENSE SOLDIERS DRAWING NEAR RETURN TO THE COPTER WITH ONE OF THE SPECIMENS!

A PLEASURE SIR. THE AUTHORITIES ALREADY HAVE A PROPENSITY FOR SUSPECTING US OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY!



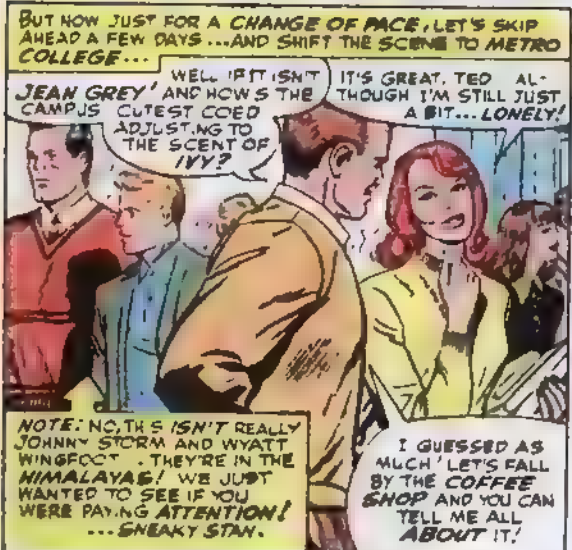
EXACTLY ONE MINUTE LATER, AS ARMED TROOPS APPEAR ON THE SCENE...

THE FLAME-THROWERS WILL DISPOSE OF THE FEW REMAINING LOCUSTS. IT IS FORTUNATE THEY WERE NOT NUMEROUS!

BUT WILL MANKIND BE SO LUCKY NEXT TIME?

OKAY MEN... LET'S MOP UP THOSE SIX-LEGGED MENACES!

Fwoosh!



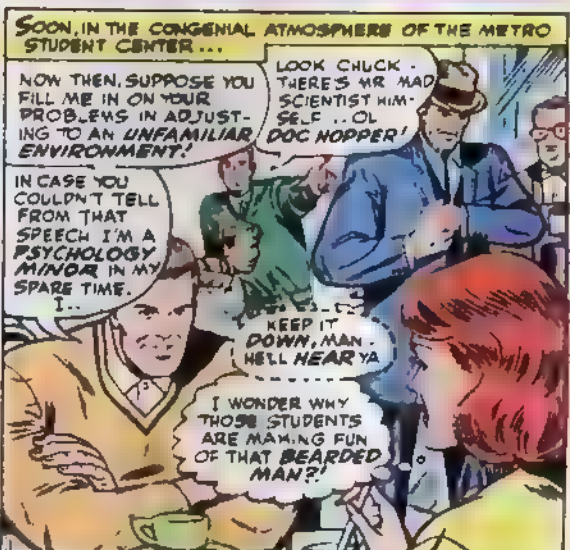
BUT NOW JUST FOR A CHANGE OF PACE, LET'S SKIP AHEAD A FEW DAYS...AND SHIFT THE SCENE TO METRO COLLEGE...

JEAN GREY AND NOW'S THE CAMPUS CUTEST COED ADJUSTING TO THE SCENT OF IVY?

IT'S GREAT, TED. ALTHOUGH I'M STILL JUST A BIT... LONELY!

NOTE: NO, THIS ISN'T REALLY JOHNNY STORM AND WYATT WINGFOOT... THEY'RE IN THE HIMALAYAS! WE JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION! ...SNEAKY STAN.

I GUESSED AS MUCH 'LET'S FALL BY THE COFFEE SHOP AND YOU CAN TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!



SOON, IN THE CONGENIAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE METRO STUDENT CENTER...

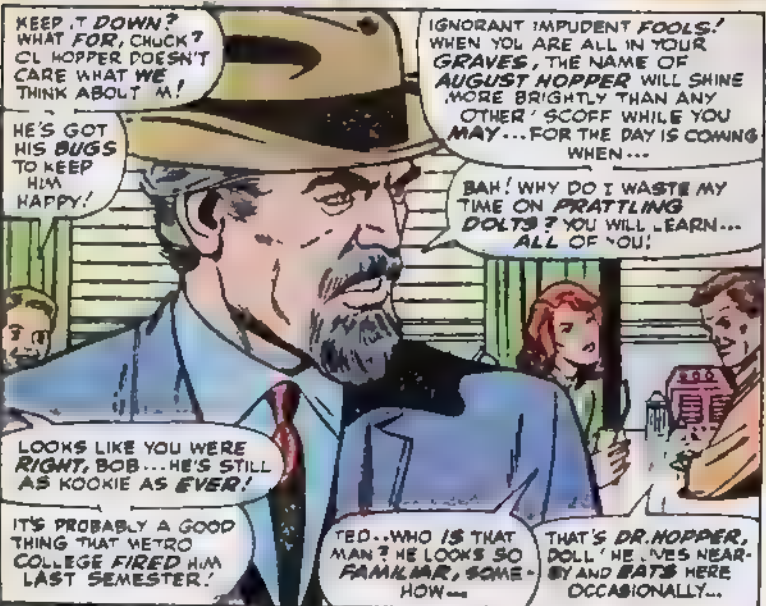
NOW THEN, SUPPOSE YOU FILL ME IN ON YOUR PROBLEMS IN ADJUSTING TO AN UNFAMILIAR ENVIRONMENT?

LOOK CHUCK... THERE'S MR. MAD SCIENTIST HIMSELF... OL DOC HOPPER!

IN CASE YOU COULDN'T TELL FROM THAT SPEECH I'M A PSYCHOLOGY MAJOR IN MY SPARE TIME. I...

KEEP IT DOWN, MAN... HE'LL HEAR YA

I WONDER WHY THOSE STUDENTS ARE MAKING FUN OF THAT BEARDED MAN?



KEEP IT DOWN? WHAT FOR, CHUCK? CL HOPPER DOESN'T CARE WHAT WE THINK ABOUT ME!

HE'S GOT HIS BUGS TO KEEP HIM HAPPY!

IGNORANT IMPUDENT FOOLS! WHEN YOU ARE ALL IN YOUR GRAVES, THE NAME OF AUGUST HOPPER WILL SHINE MORE BRIGHTLY THAN ANY OTHER SCOFF WHILE YOU MAY... FOR THE DAY IS COMING WHEN...

BAH! WHY DO I WASTE MY TIME ON PRATTLING DOLTS? YOU WILL LEARN... ALL OF YOU!

LOOKS LIKE YOU WERE RIGHT, BOB... HE'S STILL AS KOOKY AS EVER!

IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD THING THAT METRO COLLEGE FIRED HIM LAST SEMESTER.

TED... WHO IS THAT MAN? HE LOOKS SO FAMILIAR, SOMEHOW...

THAT'S DR. HOPPER, DOLL. HE'S NEARBY AND BATS HERE OCCASIONALLY...



HE WAS A TOP NAME IN ENTOMOLOGY... THE STUDY OF INSECTS... TILL SOME OF HIS CRACKPOT THEORIES GOT HIM FIRED!

DON'T SHED TOO MANY TEARS FOR HIM THOUGH! HE WORKS FOR RMAN CHEMICALS NOW I HEAR! WHY?

NOTHING... IT'S JUST SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... SOMETHING IN HIS VOICE...

I MUST STOP LOOKING FOR DANGER... AS IF I WERE STILL ONE OF THE X-MEN!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

IS YOUR HAIR GROWING OR GOING?

Stand in front of a mirror. Take a long hard look at the top of your head. Do you have as much hair as one year ago? Do you see any new hair growth?

If your answer is no, it is important that you take steps today to save the hair you now have. If you act now, you may be able to reverse the trend on your head. You may be able to grow new hair faster than it is falling out. Doesn't that make sense to you? Wouldn't you like to look in the mirror a year from now and see more hair on your head than you see now? Why lose your hair if you don't have to?

CAN YOU SAVE YOUR HAIR?

Every year thousands of men and women go bald — needlessly — because of a scalp infection. This scalp infection is called seborrhea. Doctors say that three germ organisms cause seborrhea: *staphylococcus albus*, *pitryosporum ovale*, and *microbacillus*. These germs attack the sebaceous glands and the hair follicles themselves. If not checked, permanent damage is done. The hair follicles atrophy, lose their ability to produce new hairs. The result: premature baldness.

You can easily tell if you are a victim of seborrhea. If you have itchy scalp, dandruff, hair loss, very dry or oily scalp, the chances are that you have seborrhea. Neglect these symptoms and you invite baldness.

Treat your scalp to Ward's Formula. This amazing scalp medicine quickly controls seborrhea and stops the hair loss it causes.

Here's the Proof!

I must admit I didn't have much faith in it, but I hadn't been using Ward's one week before I could see it was helping me. I could feel my hair getting thicker.
E. K., Cleveland, Ohio

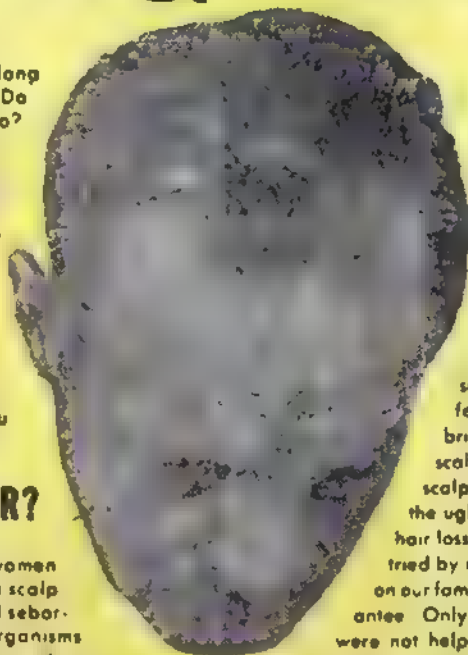
Out of all the Hair Experts I went to, I've gotten the most help from one bottle of Ward's Formula.
C. La M., Philadelphia, Pa.

After using Ward's for only 12 days, my hair has stopped falling out.
R. W. C. Cicero, Ill.

I was teetering on death with the results in just two weeks time no dandruff!
W. T. W. Purcell, Cal.

I feel encouraged to say that the infuriating scalp itch which has bothered me for 5 years is now gone.
J. M. K., Columbus, Ohio

Male pattern baldness is the cause of the great majority of cases of baldness and excessive hair loss, for which neither the Ward treatment nor any other treatment is effective.



DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

In seconds, Ward's Formula kills the three parasitic germ organisms retarding normal hair growth. This swift germicidal action has been proven in scientific tests by a world famous testing laboratory (copy of laboratory report sent on request). Ward's removes infectious dandruff, stops scalp itch, brings hair-nourishing blood to the scalp, tends to normalize very dry or oily scalp. In brief Ward's Formula corrects the ugly symptoms of seborrhea, stops the hair loss it causes. Ward's Formula has been tried by more than 350,000 men and women on our famous Double-Your Money Back Guarantee. Only 1% of these men and women were not helped by Ward's and asked for their double refund. This is truly an amazing performance.

Why not join the men and women who have successfully ended their troubles? Treat your scalp with Ward's Formula. Try it at our risk. In only 10 days you must see and feel the marked improvement in your scalp and hair. Your dandruff must be gone. Your scalp itch must stop. Your hair must look thicker, more attractive, and alive. Your excessive hair loss must stop. You must be completely satisfied — in only 10 days — with the improved condition of your scalp and hair, or simply return the unused portion for Double Your Money Back. So why delay? Delay may cost your hair.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. 19 West 44 Street, N. Y. 36, N. Y. © 1963

Doctors and hospitals can obtain professional samples of Ward's Formula on written request.

H. H. Ward & Co., Inc. Dept. 3908T
19 West 44 Street, New York 36, N. Y.

Rush Ward's Formula to me at once. I must be completely satisfied in only 10 days or you GUARANTEE refund of DOUBLE MY MONEY BACK upon return of bottle and unused portion.

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☐ Enclosed find \$2, send postpaid (check, cash, money order)

☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman \$2 plus 76 cents in postal charges (save the 76 cents by enclosing \$2)

☐ Send triple size for \$5. You save \$1.

Canadian: foreign add 50 cents — No C.O.D.

DOUBLE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HOWEVER, IF JEAN COULD FOLLOW THE TEMPESTUOUS DR. HOPPER TO HIS RYAN CHEMICALS LAB SHE WOULD SOON OBSERVE...

SO, IT IS NOT ENOUGH THAT THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY MY PROFESSORSHIP... DEPRIVED MY INSECT-MUTATION THEORIES OF AN AUDIENCE OF RECEPTIVE MINDS!

THEY MUST MOCK ME AS WELL... CALL ME "CRACKPOT" AND "MAD SCIENTIST!"

I... MAD!! THAT IS THE SUPREME IRONY!

FOR THIS I WHO AM THE SANEST OF ALL! ONLY I HAVE HAD THE SHEER GENIUS TO DEVELOP THE MOST POTENT INSECTICIDES KNOWN TO MAN!

BUT ALWAYS IN THE PAST OTHERS HAVE TAKEN CREDIT FOR MY DISCOVERIES... FIRST METRO COLLEGE AND NOW RYAN CHEMICALS I HAVE REMAINED UNKNOWN!

NO MORE!! SOON THE NAME OF AUGUST HOPPER WILL BE KNOWN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD... AS THE SAVIOR OF THE HUMAN RACE!

AND NOW IT IS TIME TO TEST THE LATEST IMPROVEMENTS ON MY NEW FORMULA

FIRST I ACTIVATE THIS SINGLE INSECT EGG WITH MY ORIGINAL MAGNO-RAY!

FZZT!

EXCELLENT! JUST AS BEFORE, THE NEWLY-HATCHED LARVA BEGINS TO FEED... AND INCREASES ITS BULK IMMEDIATELY AS IT DEVOURS ORDINARY LEAVES.

IT WAS THUS THAT I IN MY GENIUS GUISE OF THE LOCUST, CREATED THE SMALL BUT MIGHTY ARMY OF INSECTS WHICH THE ACCURSED X-MEN ATTACKED!

CHOMP! CHOMP!

BUT SINCE THAT MEETING I HAVE REFINED THE MAGNO-RAY... AND DEVELOPED THIS PORTABLE VERSION OF IT!

AND IT WORKS... AS I KNEW IT WOULD THE RAY ALONE NOW INCREASED THAT BEETLE'S SIZE.

BLIK!

NOW THE CARNIVOROUS BEETLE ATTACKS THE CATERPILLAR IN THIS WAY, NATURE HAS ALWAYS CONTROLLED A BALANCE OF SPECIES!

BUT THERE WILL BE NO SUCH CONTROL ACTING UPON MY GIANT INSECTS... AND MANKIND WILL BE HELPLESS BEFORE THEM!

THEN I... DR. HOPPER... SHALL DISCOVER THE WAY TO DESTROY THEM... AND I SHALL RECEIVE THE PLAUDITS OF A DESPERATELY THANKFUL WORLD!

THUS, AT LAST I WILL BE GIVEN THE CREDIT WHICH HAS BEEN SO LONG DENIED ME! MY FAME SHALL ENDURE FOREVER!

MEANWHILE, I MUST DIS-INTEGRATE THESE TWO SPECIMENS... LEST THEY BE DISCOVERED AND MY PURPOSE THWARTED!

IN A MATTER OF HOURS MY INSECT LEGIONS WILL ATTACK ANEW... MORE POWERFUL MORE NUMEROUS THAN BEFORE!

AND, IF THE X-MEN INTERFERE AGAIN... THEY WILL BE RUTHLESSLY DESTROYED, BY... THE LOCUST!

PZISST!

THE NEXT MORNING IN THE LABORATORY OF PROFESSOR XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

I HOPE THE PROF FINISHES HIS EXAMINATION OF THE GIANT LOCUST PRETTY SOON. I'VE GOT A DATE WITH ZELDA TONIGHT!

WHAT'S THE VERDICT, PROFESSOR? IS THIS OVERSIZED ORTHOPTERA A MUTATION?

AND I WITH YERA!

A SENSE, HANK. HOWEVER MY STUDY INDICATES THAT SOME ARTIFICIAL MEANS WAS USED TO INCREASE ITS STATURE.

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THERE'S SOME HUMAN AGENT BEHIND THESE FANTASTIC CREATURES.

HUMAN AGENT? THAT'S BESIDES WITH ONE FARMER'S CLAIM TO SEE A MAN DIRECTING THE INSECT'S ACTIONS!

BUT WHAT KIND OF MAN, PROFESSOR? COULD IT BE THAT SOME EVIL MUTANT'S ON THE PROWL?

NEGATIVE, WARREN. THE X-COPTER'S EQUIPPED WITH A PORTABLE VERSION OF CEREBRO, AND IT WOULD HAVE REGISTERED ANY MUTANT HUMANS WITHIN A TWENTY-MILE RADIUS!

SO NOW IT IS UP TO THE FIVE OF US TO...

CORRECTION, PROFESSOR... THE SIX OF US!

MARVEL GIRL! WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' HERE?

IT'S THE WEEKEND. YOU KNOW WE'LL HAVE A COME IN, OR?

WHERE DID YOU PICK UP THE GIANT LOCUST? I HAD HEARD REPORTS OF SOME UPSTATE BUT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK I WAS ALREADY GETTING RED OF LOOKING AT THE BEAST!

LIKE WISE MY FROSTY FRIEND

HAVE A CHAIR, LADY, AND WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT

PERHAPS I'D BEST TAKE CARE OF THE EXPLANATIONS, ANGEL!

THEN AFTER JEAN GREY IS FILLED IN, HURRIEDLY...

IT ALL SOUNDS UTTERLY INCREDIBLE... AND YET DR. HOPPER SEEMS TO HAVE PREDICTED YEARS AGO THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN!

WHAT? TELL ME MORE, JEAN. WHO IS THIS DR. HOPPER?

QUICKLY... I MUST KNOW! THE INFORMATION MAY BE VITAL!

WELL HE USED TO BE A PROFESSOR AT METRO COLLEGE...

SHE'S BEEN HERE TEN MINUTES AND HASN'T EVEN GLANCED MY WAY! WAS I ONLY IMAGINING... THAT ONCE SHE CARED?

A BOY WHOM I MET TOLD ME THAT DR. HOPPER HOLDS SOME RATHER FAR-FETCHED THEORIES ABOUT INSECT MUTATION! HE BELIEVES IONIC BOMBARDMENT COULD ONE DAY INCREASE THE SIZE... AND LEAD TO THE DESTRUCTION OF MANKIND!

HE PREACHED HIS THEORY SO VIOLENTLY IN CLASS THAT THE COLLEGE HAD TO DISMISS HIM... AND NOW HE WORKS FOR RYAN CHEMICALS!

HAHAHA... IT MAY JUST BE THAT THIS DR. HOPPER'S MORE FAR-SIGHTED THAN THE WORLD IMAGINES! I THINK I HAD BETTER PAY HIM A VISIT... AT ONCE!

GET THE CAR, WARREN! YOU'RE DRIVING ME TO RYAN CHEMICALS!

A SHORT TIME LATER, THE MULTI-MILLION-DOLLAR PLANT WHICH EMPLOYED DR. AUGUST HOPPER RECEIVES A FATEFUL VISITOR...

I'M MR. HAMILTON. I'M SURE HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HONORED TO MEET AN AUTHORITY ON MUTANTS, SUCH AS YOURSELF PROFESSOR XAVIER!

PLANT SUPERVISOR! I'M SORRY DR. HOPPER ISN'T HERE, BUT HE LEFT YESTERDAY ON A SHORT LEAVE OF ABSENCE!

THE PLEASURE WOULD HAVE BEEN MINE, MR. HAMILTON! BUT, DO YOU SUPPOSE I COULD SEE HIS LABORATORY?

WELL HE'S USUALLY VERY POSSESSIVE ABOUT IT, BUT... I'M SURE IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT IN YOUR CASE!

MINUTES AFTERWARD, IN THE LAB WHICH THE ANXIOUS ENTOMOLOGIST UTILIZES FOR HIS SINISTER STUDIES

THIS IS DR. HOPPER'S CASTLE... ALMOST HIS HOME! SOMETIMES HE DOESN'T LEAVE IT FOR DAYS ON END.

HE IS EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO LET OTHERS ENTER IT AT THOSE TIMES... AND IN VIEW OF THE TRULY FANTASTIC PESTICIDES HE HAS DEVELOPED, WE TRY TO RESPECT HIS WISHES!

I SEE! AND YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I COULD CONTACT HIM NOW?

I'M AFRAID NOT! HIS CONTRACT PROVIDES FOR SUCH LEAVES OF ABSENCE DURING WHICH HE USUALLY TAKES ALONG HIS MOBILE LAB!

IN FACT FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE MAY BE INVESTIGATING THOSE REPORTS OF MAMMOTH LOCUSTS NEAR HERE!

A COMFORTING THOUGHT, MR. HAMILTON!

HMM... OR IS IT? I WONDER...

MY MENTAL PROBING OF SOME OF DR. HOPPER'S EQUIPMENT IS BEGINNING TO REVEAL SOME VERY INTERESTING DISCOVERIES!

AND HERE... THERE ARE SEVERAL CANNISTERS MISSING... CANNISTERS WHICH THE LABELS SAY CONTAINED LOCUST EGGS!

COULD IT BE THAT DR. HOPPER HAS A FAR MORE INTEGRAL, FAR MORE PERSONAL PART IN THE MENACE OF THOSE RAMPAGING INSECTS THAN ANYONE HAS SUSPECTED?

THEN, AS THE INVALID MUTANT TURNS HIS ATTENTION TO A PREVIOUSLY UNNOTICED WALL...

THAT MAP... IT MAY JUST BE THE CLINCHER!

THAT LARGE X PIN-POINTS THE AREA WHERE THE LOCUST SWARM APPEARED... AND THERE ARE OTHER X'S INDICATED AS WELL!

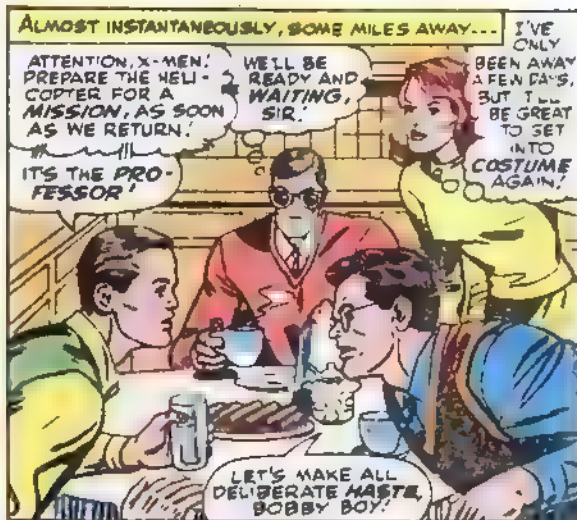
I BELIEVE I'VE SEEN ENOUGH, MR. HAMILTON... IF YOU'LL JUST SHOW ME THE WAY OUT...

CERTAINLY, PROFESSOR! I HOPE THE STILL I'M SORRY YOU COULDN'T MEET DR. HOPPER! HE'S A BRILLIANT MAN, DESPITE HIS, ER, SOMEWHAT UN-BELIEVABLE THEORIES ABOUT INSECT MUTATION!

I Mattered YOU WANTED TO TALK WITH HIM ABOUT WASN'T TOO URGENT!

UH, NO, NOT REALLY! IN FACT, I THINK I'VE LEARNED ALL I NEED TO KNOW!

I CAN'T WAIT TO RETURN TO THE SCHOOL... I MUST CONTACT THE X-MEN... NOW!!



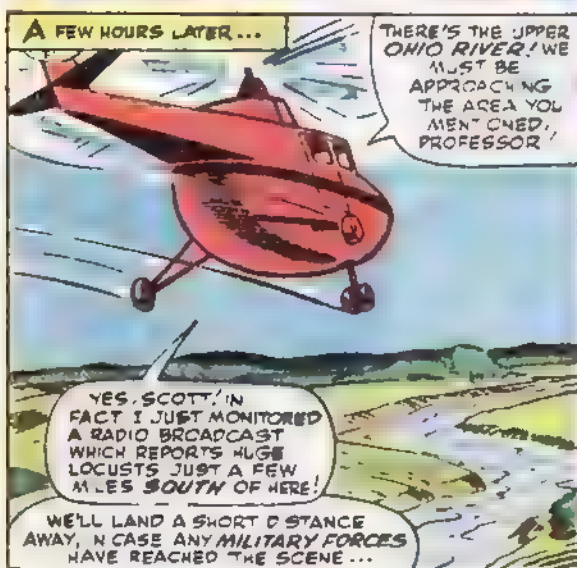
ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY, SOME MILES AWAY... I'VE ONLY BEEN AWAY A FEW DAYS, BUT I'LL BE GREAT TO GET INTO COSTUME AGAIN!

ATTENTION, X-MEN! PREPARE THE HELICOPTER FOR A MISSION, AS SOON AS WE RETURN!

IT'S THE PROFESSOR!

WE'LL BE READY AND WAITING, SIR.

LET'S MAKE ALL DELIBERATE WASTE, BOBBY BOY.

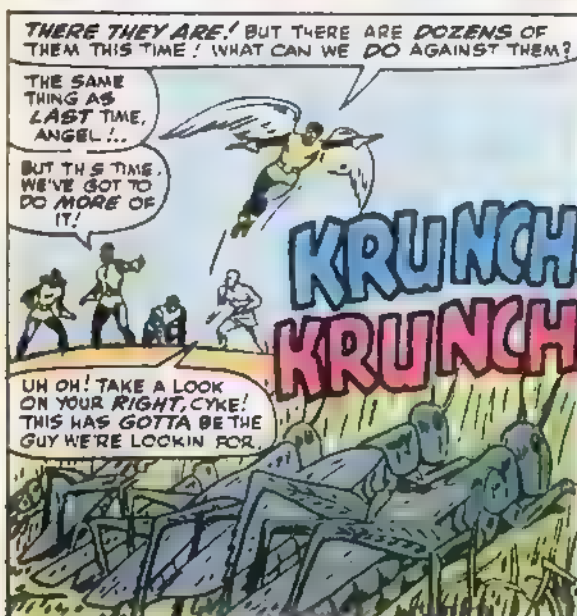


A FEW HOURS LATER...

THERE'S THE UPPER OHIO RIVER! WE MUST BE APPROACHING THE AREA YOU MENTIONED, PROFESSOR!

YES, SCOTT! IN FACT I JUST MONITORED A RADIO BROADCAST WHICH REPORTS HUGE LOCUSTS JUST A FEW MILES SOUTH OF HERE!

WE'LL LAND A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY, IN CASE ANY MILITARY FORCES HAVE REACHED THE SCENE...



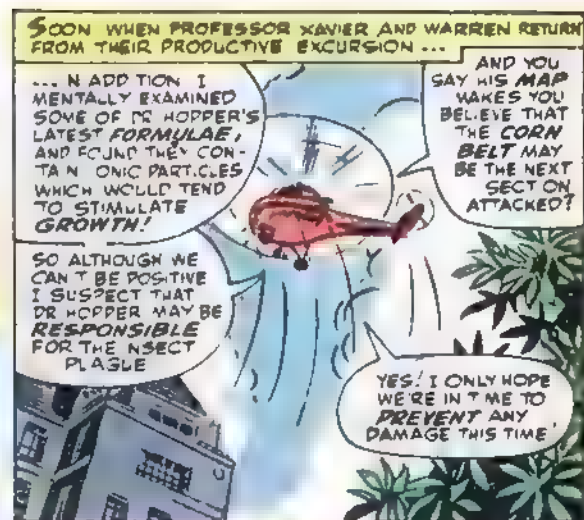
THERE THEY ARE! BUT THERE ARE DOZENS OF THEM THIS TIME! WHAT CAN WE DO AGAINST THEM?

THE SAME THING AS LAST TIME, ANGEL...

BUT THIS TIME, WE'VE GOT TO DO MORE OF IT!

KRUNCH! KRUNCH!

UH OH! TAKE A LOOK ON YOUR RIGHT, CYKE! THIS HAS GOTTA BE THE GUY WE'RE LOOKIN' FOR.



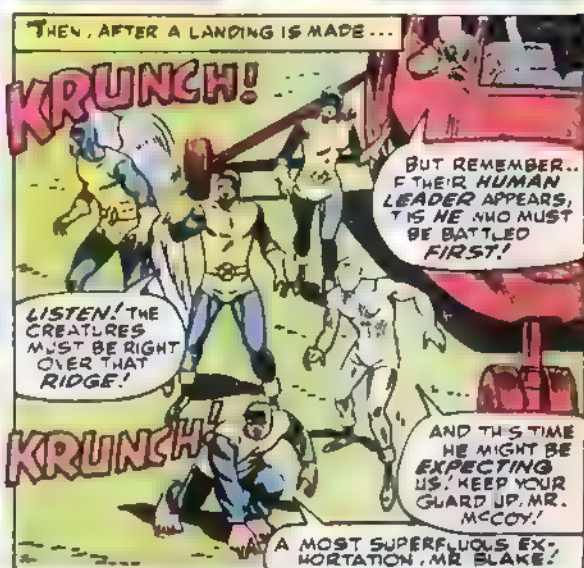
SOON WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER AND WARREN RETURN FROM THEIR PRODUCTIVE EXCURSION...

... IN ADDITION I MENTALLY EXAMINED SOME OF DR. HOPPER'S LATEST FORMULAE, AND FOUND THEY CONTAIN ONIC PARTICLES WHICH WOULD TEND TO STIMULATE GROWTH!

SO ALTHOUGH WE CAN'T BE POSITIVE I SUSPECT THAT DR. HOPPER MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INSECT PLAGUE

YES! I ONLY HOPE WE'RE IN TIME TO PREVENT ANY DAMAGE THIS TIME!

AND YOU SAY HIS MAP MAKES YOU BELIEVE THAT THE CORN BELT MAY BE THE NEXT SECTION ATTACKED?



THEN, AFTER A LANDING IS MADE...

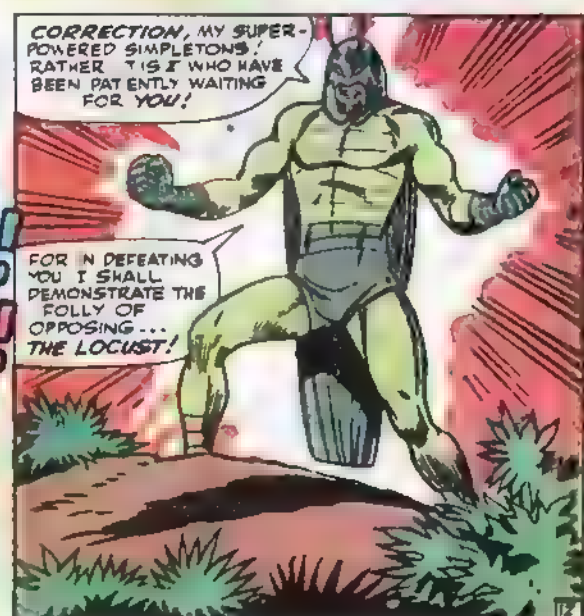
KRUNCH!

BUT REMEMBER... IF THEIR HUMAN LEADER APPEARS, THIS IS THE ONE WHO MUST BE BATTLED FIRST!

LISTEN! THE CREATURES MUST BE RIGHT OVER THAT RIDGE!

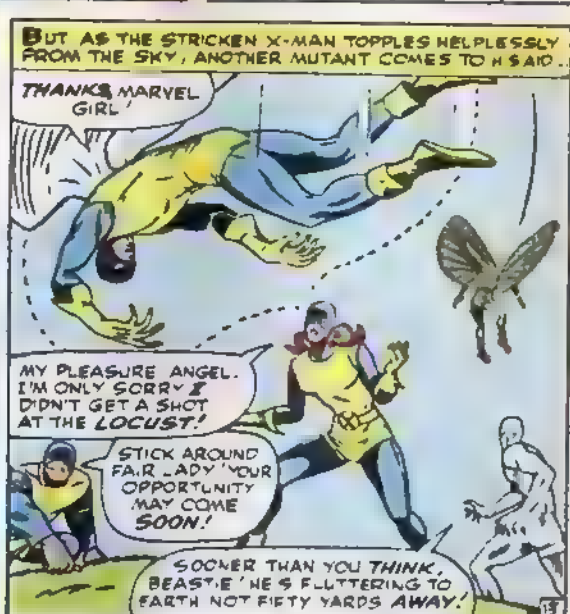
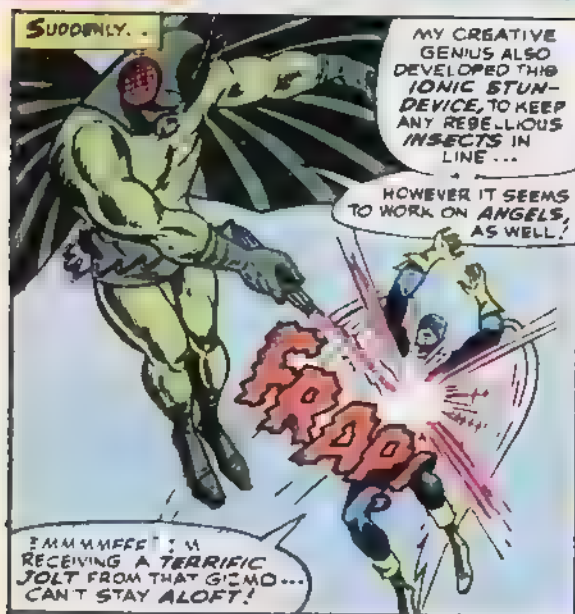
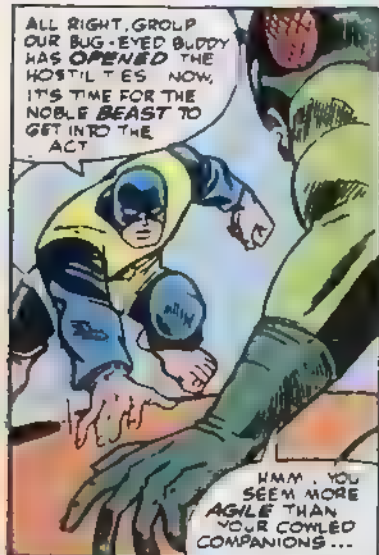
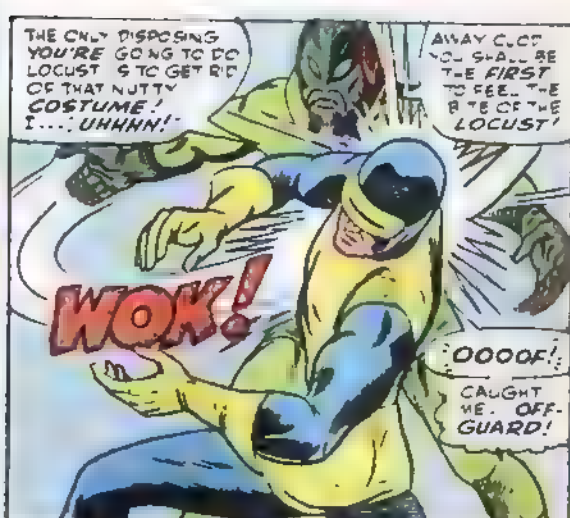
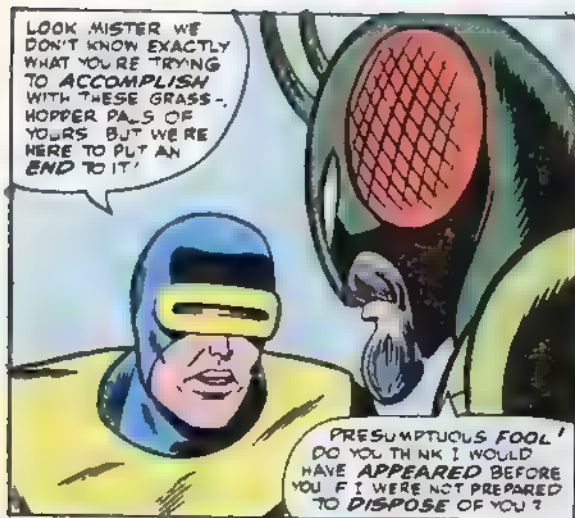
KRUNCH!

AND THIS TIME HE MIGHT BE EXPECTING US! KEEP YOUR GUARD UP, MR. MCCOY!



CORRECTION, MY SUPER-POWERED SIMPLETONS! RATHER THIS IS WHO HAVE BEEN PATIENTLY WAITING FOR YOU!

FOR IN DEFEATING YOU I SHALL DEMONSTRATE THE FOLLY OF OPPOSING... THE LOCUST!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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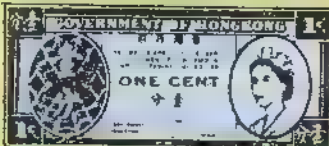
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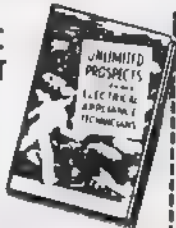
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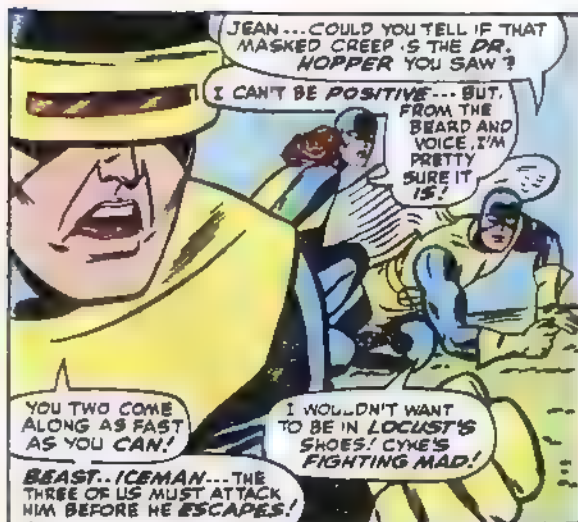
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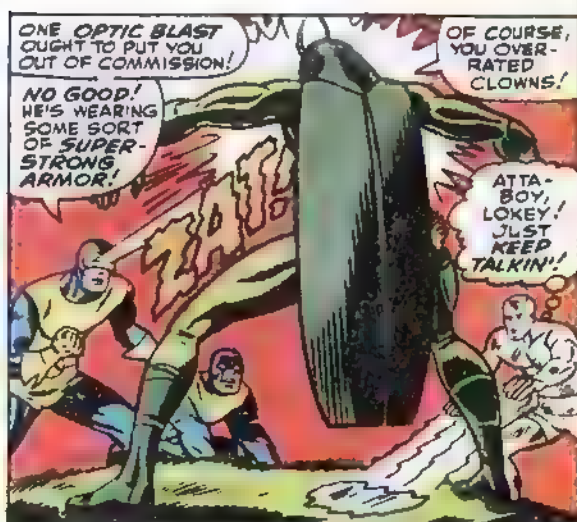
JEAN... COULD YOU TELL IF THAT MASKED CREEP'S THE DR. HOPPER YOU SAW?

I CAN'T BE POSITIVE... BUT, FROM THE BEARD AND VOICE, I'M PRETTY SURE IT IS!

YOU TWO COME ALONG AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN LOCUST'S SHOES! CYKE'S FIGHTING MAD!

BEAST... ICEMAN... THE THREE OF US MUST ATTACK HIM BEFORE HE ESCAPES!



ONE OPTIC BLAST OUGHT TO PUT YOU OUT OF COMMISSION!

NO GOOD! HE'S WEARING SOME SORT OF SUPER-STRONG ARMOR!

OF COURSE, YOU OVER-RATED CLOWNS!

ATTA-BOY, LOKEY! JUST KEEP TALKIN'!

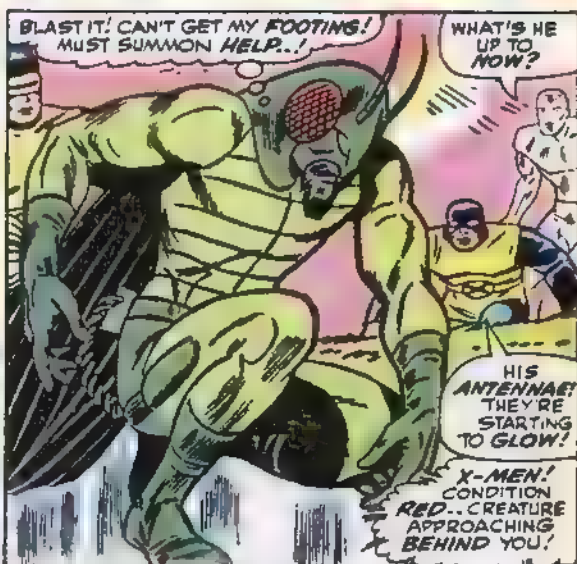


I AM SHIELDED FROM YOUR PUNY RAY BY MY EXO-SHELL, AN IMPROVED VERSION OF THE INSECT'S EXTERIOR SKELETON, SO THAT...

UHHNNN!

WOOSH!

TELL US MORE, PAL AS SOON AS YOU MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE ON MY SHEET OF ICE, THAT IS!

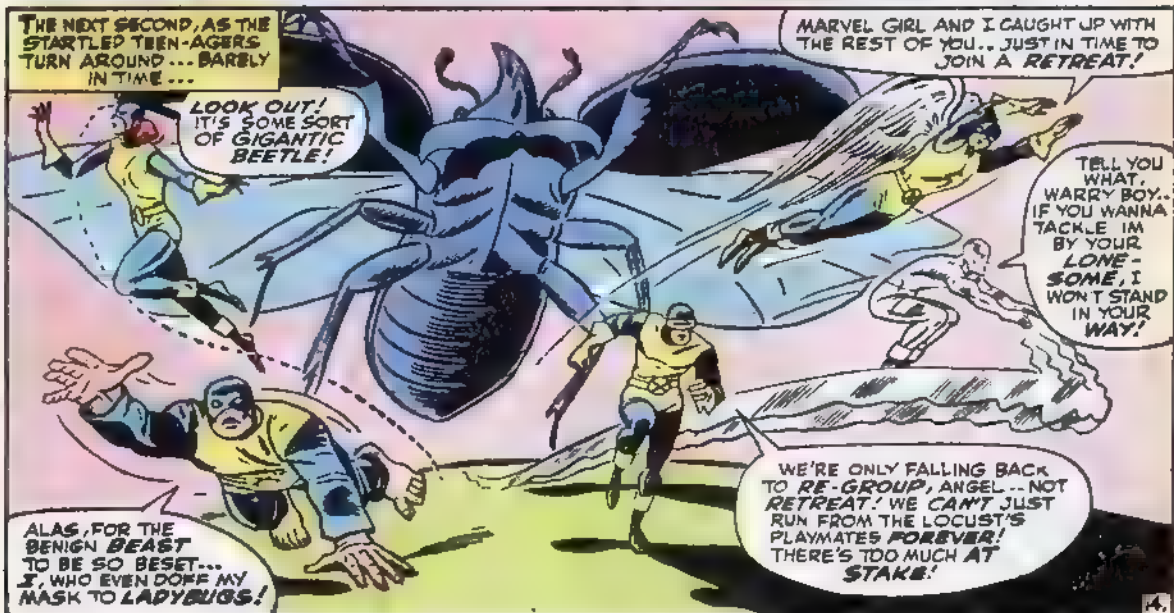


BLAST IT! CAN'T GET MY FOOTING! MUST SUMMON HELP..!

WHAT'S HE UP TO NOW?

HIS ANTENNAE! THEY'RE STARTING TO GLOW!

X-MEN! CONDITION RED... CREATURE APPROACHING BEHIND YOU!



THE NEXT SECOND, AS THE STARTLED TEEN-AGERS TURN AROUND... BARELY IN TIME...

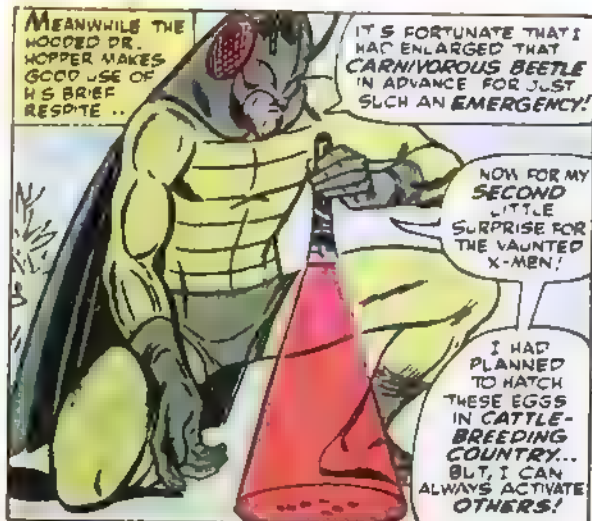
LOOK OUT! IT'S SOME SORT OF GIGANTIC BEETLE!

MARVEL GIRL AND I CAUGHT UP WITH THE REST OF YOU... JUST IN TIME TO JOIN A RETREAT!

TELL YOU WHAT, WARRY BOY.. IF YOU WANNA TACKLE IM BY YOUR LONE-SOME, I WON'T STAND IN YOUR WAY!

ALAS, FOR THE BENIGN BEAST TO BE SO BESET... I, WHO EVEN OFF MY MASK TO LADYBUGS!

WE'RE ONLY FALLING BACK TO RE-GROUP, ANGEL... NOT RETREAT! WE CAN'T JUST RUN FROM THE LOCUST'S PLAYMATES FOREVER! THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE!

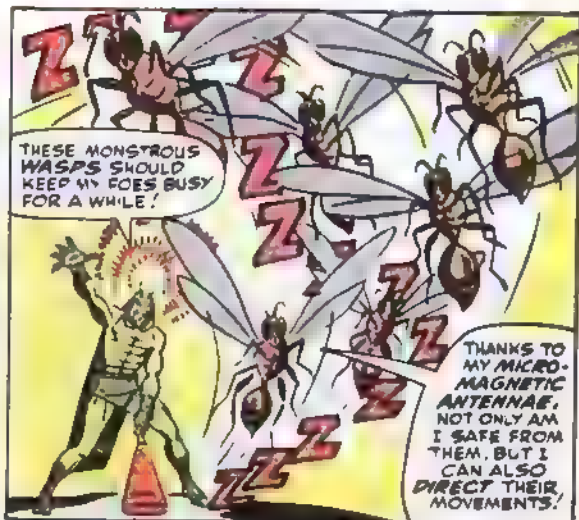


MEANWHILE THE WOODED DR. HOPPER MAKES GOOD USE OF HIS BRIEF RESPIRE ...

IT'S FORTUNATE THAT I HAD ENLARGED THAT CARNIVOROUS BEETLE IN ADVANCE FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY!

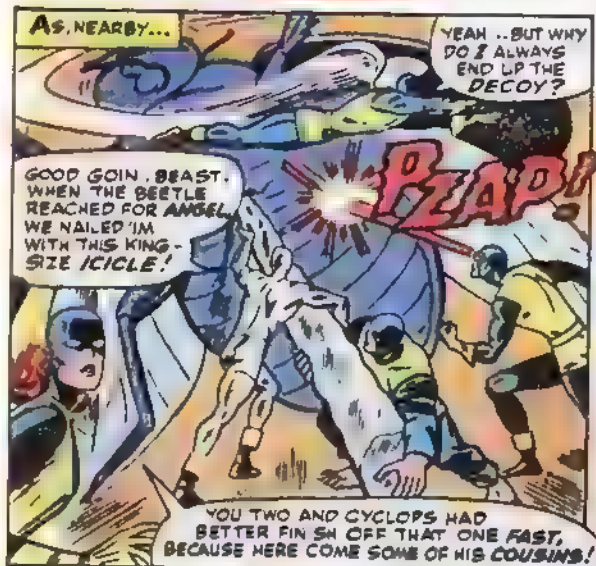
NOW FOR MY SECOND LITTLE SURPRISE FOR THE VAUNTED X-MEN!

I HAD PLANNED TO HATCH THESE EGGS IN CATTLE-BREEDING COUNTRY... BUT, I CAN ALWAYS ACTIVATE OTHERS!



THESE MONSTROUS WASPS SHOULD KEEP MY ENEMIES BUSY FOR A WHILE!

THANKS TO MY MICRO-MAGNETIC ANTENNAE, NOT ONLY AM I SAFE FROM THEM, BUT I CAN ALSO DIRECT THEIR MOVEMENTS!



AS NEARBY...

YEAH... BUT WHY DO I ALWAYS END UP THE DECOY?

GOOD GOIN', BEAST. WHEN THE BEETLE REACHED FOR ANGEL, WE NAILED 'IM WITH THIS KING-SIZE ICICLE!

PEAP!

YOU TWO AND CYCLOPS HAD BETTER FINISH OFF THAT ONE FAST, BECAUSE HERE COME SOME OF HIS COUSINS!

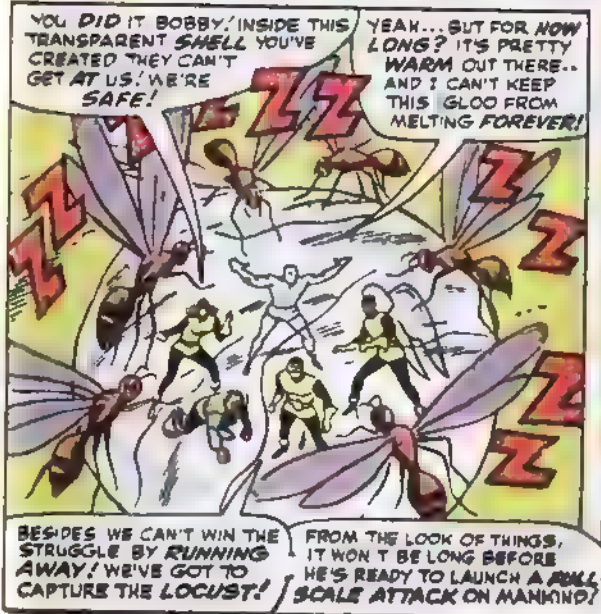


ZZZZZZ

WE CAN'T FIGHT ALL THOSE AT ONCE! BUT DON'T DESPAIR PEOPLE... THE ICEMAN COMETH, AS GENEY O'NEILL USED TO SAY!

LESS NAME-DROPPING AND MORE ACTION, LAD!

THAT'S FOR SURE! THOSE BABIES LOOK HUNGRY!

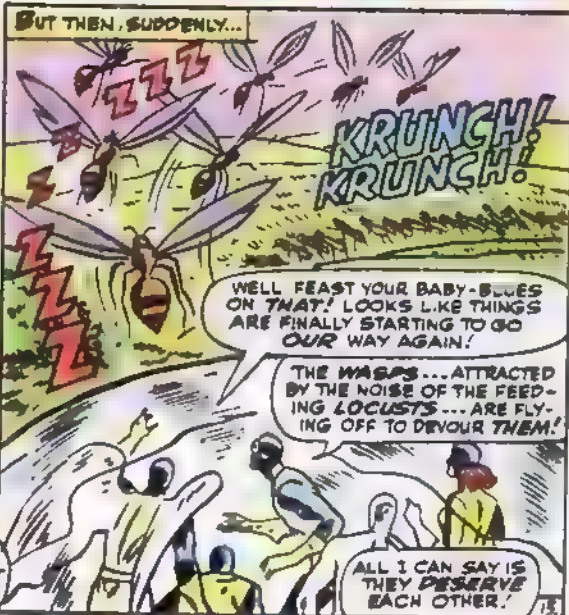


YOU DID IT BOBBY! INSIDE THIS TRANSPARENT SHELL YOU'VE CREATED THEY CAN'T GET AT US! WE'RE SAFE!

YEAH... BUT FOR HOW LONG? IT'S PRETTY WARM OUT THERE... AND I CAN'T KEEP THIS GLOO FROM MELTING FOREVER!

BESIDES WE CAN'T WIN THE STRUGGLE BY RUNNING AWAY! WE'VE GOT TO CAPTURE THE LOCUST!

FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE HE'S READY TO LAUNCH A FULL-SCALE ATTACK ON MANKIND!



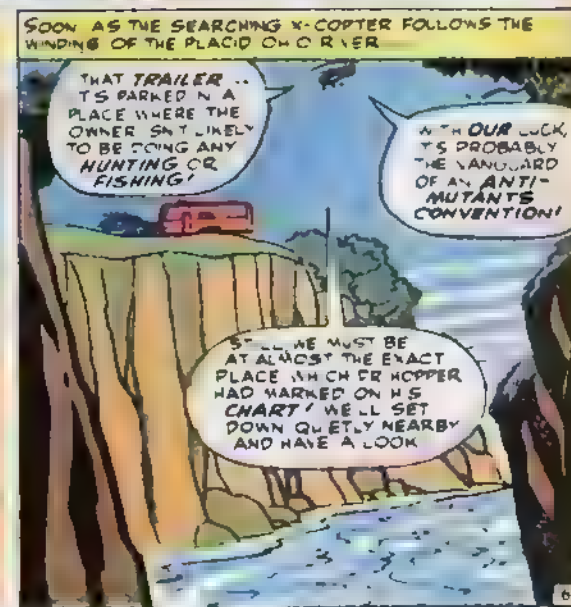
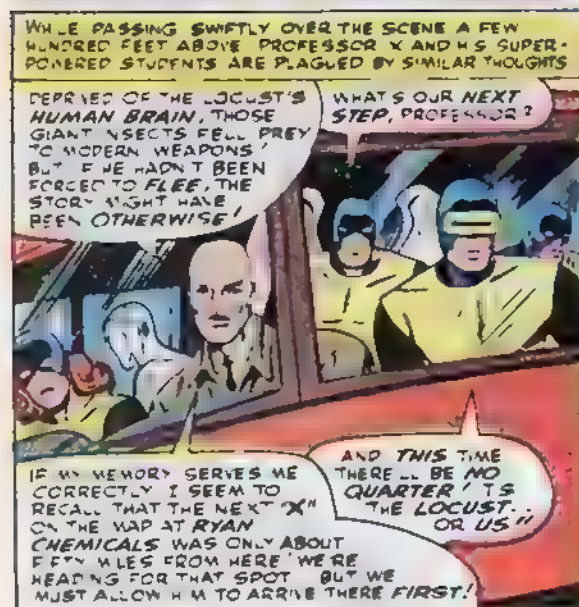
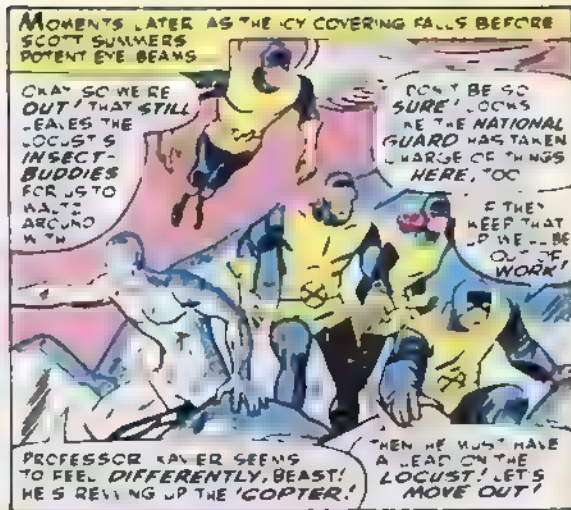
BUT THEN, SUDDENLY...

KRUNCH! KRUNCH!

WE'LL FEAST YOUR BABY-BLUES ON THAT! LOOKS LIKE THINGS ARE FINALLY STARTING TO GO OUR WAY AGAIN!

THE WASPS... ATTRACTED BY THE NOISE OF THE FEEDING LOCUSTS... ARE FLYING OFF TO DEVOUR THEM!

ALL I CAN SAY IS THEY DESERVE EACH OTHER!



CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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MEANWHILE, EVEN AS THE X-MEN'S SLEEK CRAFT LANDS IN A WOODED GROVE... INSIDE THE TRAILER WHICH SERVES AS A 'MOBILE LAB'...

ALREADY, THE HAVOC WREAKED BY MY FIRST CREATIONS PREPARES THE WORLD TO ACCEPT THE INSECT-MUTATION THEORIES OF DR. AUGUST HOPPER!

AND SOON AFTER MORE FORAYS BY MY GIANT PETS IN THE CORN BELT, I SHALL STEP FORWARD TO DESTROY THEM... AND RECEIVE THE ACCLAIM WHICH THE WORLD HAS SO LONG HELD FROM ME!

IN ADDITION BECAUSE OF THEIR OFFENSIVE MEDDLING, I SHALL USE MY NEW-FOUND INFLUENCE TO TURN THE PEOPLE MORE THAN EVER AGAINST THE ACCURSED X-MEN!

BUT ENOUGH TALK! THE NEWEST BATCH OF EGGS SHOULD BE IONICALLY ACTIVATED BY NOW... AND IN GREATER NUMBERS THAN EITHER PREVIOUS TIME!

HOWEVER AS THE LOCUST STEPS OUTSIDE THE TRAILER, HE IS STARTLED TO BEHOLD...

SOME SORT OF HERMIT... IN THE GARB OF A PAST CENTURY! WHAT IS HE DOING HERE?

I HAVE COME AS A FRIEND... TO SAVE YOU FROM YOUR OWN FOLLY!

BE GONE! THE LOCUST NEEDS NO FRIENDS!

EVERY MAN HAS NEED OF FRIENDS, LOCUST... WHETHER HE REALIZES IT OR NOT! YOU HAVE CHOSEN TO SET YOURSELF AGAINST HUMANITY... WHY??

WITH THE POWER YOU POSSESS, YOU COULD BE A BENEFACTOR OF MANKIND INSTEAD OF ITS OPPRESSOR! WHY DO YOU CHOOSE THE COURSE OF EVIL?

BABBLING FOOL! WHAT DO YOU... OR ANYONE... KNOW OF... THE LOCUST?

A THOUSAND YEARS HENCE MY NAME SHALL BE REVERED... WHEN THE TOMBS OF KINGS ARE BUT DUST!

I FEEL THAT YOU ARE TRULY NOT AN EVIL MAN... MERELY A DELUDED ONE!

FORGET YOUR SENSELESS PLANS... AND TURN YOUR GREAT KNOWLEDGE TO THE GOOD OF THE HUMAN RACE!

FORGET MY PLANS? NO... NOT WHILE I LIVE! I SHALL TOIL NO MORE FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF OTHERS!

THE WORLD SHALL PAY HOMAGE TO ME... OR MY INSECT HORDES WILL LAY WASTE TO IT!

WAIT! COME BACK!

NEVER! AND THIS TIME I SHALL UNLEASH HUNDREDS OF RAVAGING LOCUSTS!

NO USE! IT'S UP TO THE X-MEN TO STOP HIM NOW! I ONLY PRAY THAT... IF THEY SUCCEED... DEFEAT WILL SHOCK HIM TO HIS SENSES!

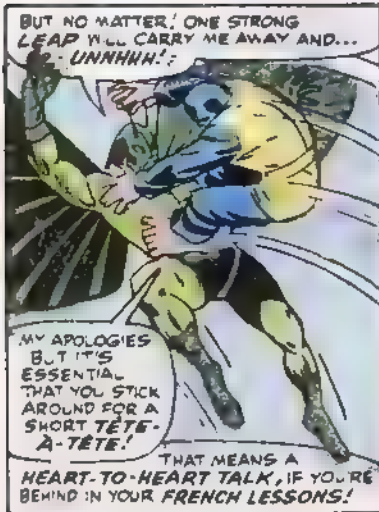
THEN, AS THE COLORFULLY-GARBED SCIENTIST FLUTTERS TO A LANDING, NOT FAR AWAY...

MAYBE WE'LL WRITE YOU A LETTER ABOUT T... WHEN YOU'RE SAFELY IN JAIL!

THE X-MEN! BUT HOW COULD YOU HAVE FOUND ME SO QUICKLY?

TRADE SECRET, CHUM!

PERFECT PLANNING! THE PROFESSOR... IN HIS 'HERMIT' GARB AND MECHANICAL LEGS... GOT THE LOCUST INCENSED ENOUGH TO HOP OFF... RIGHT INTO OUR ARMS!



BUT NO MATTER! ONE STRONG LEAP WILL CARRY ME AWAY AND...
OOOHHHHH!!

MY APOLOGIES BUT IT'S ESSENTIAL THAT YOU STICK AROUND FOR A SHORT TETE-A-TETE!

THAT MEANS A HEART-TO-HEART TALK, IF YOU'RE BEHIND IN YOUR FRENCH LESSONS!

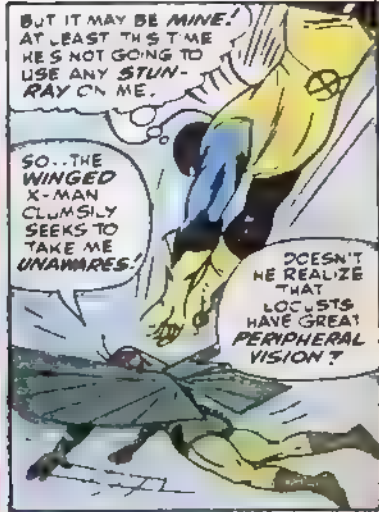


AWAY, YOU BUMBLING OAF!

I HAVE NO TIME FOR SUCH DELAYS!

OOOF!!

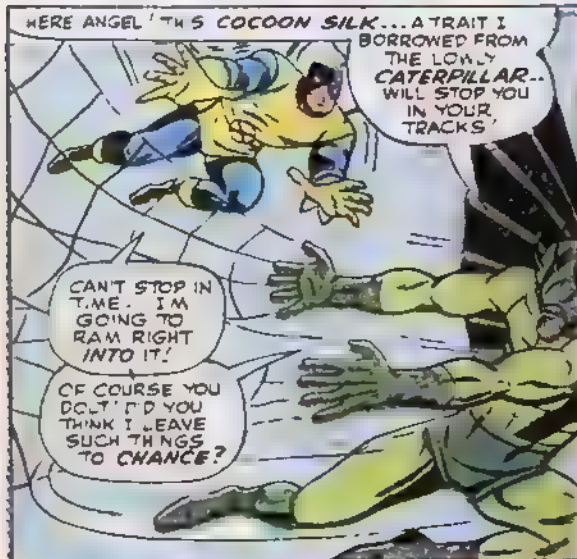
IT'S BECOMING OBVIOUS THIS JUST ISN'T MY DAY!



BUT IT MAY BE MINE! AT LEAST THAT ME HE'S NOT GOING TO USE ANY STUN-RAY ON ME.

SO...THE WINGED X-MAN CLUMSILY SEEKS TO TAKE ME UNAWARES!

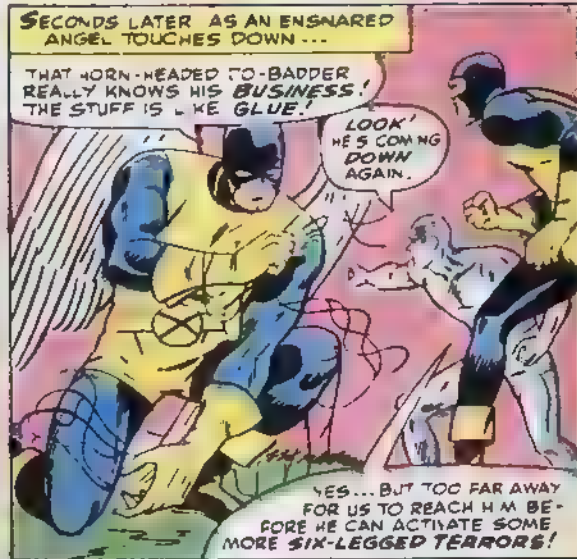
DOESN'T HE REALIZE THAT LOCUSTS HAVE GREAT PERIPHERAL VISION?



HERE ANGEL! THIS COCOON SILK... A TRAIT I BORROWED FROM THE LOWLY CATERPILLAR... WILL STOP YOU IN YOUR TRACKS!

CAN'T STOP IN TIME, I'M GOING TO RAM RIGHT INTO IT!

OF COURSE YOU DO! I'D YOU THINK I LEAVE SUCH THINGS TO CHANCE?



SECONDS LATER AS AN ENSNARED ANGEL TOUCHES DOWN...

THAT HORN-HEADED TO-BADDER REALLY KNOWS HIS BUSINESS! THE STUFF IS LIKE GLUE!

LOOK! HE'S COMING DOWN AGAIN.

YES... BUT TOO FAR AWAY FOR US TO REACH HIM BEFORE HE CAN ACTIVATE SOME MORE SIX-LEGGED TERRORS!



AND INDEED EVEN AS THE X-MEN'S DEPUTY LEADER SPEAKS THESE PROPHETIC WORDS...

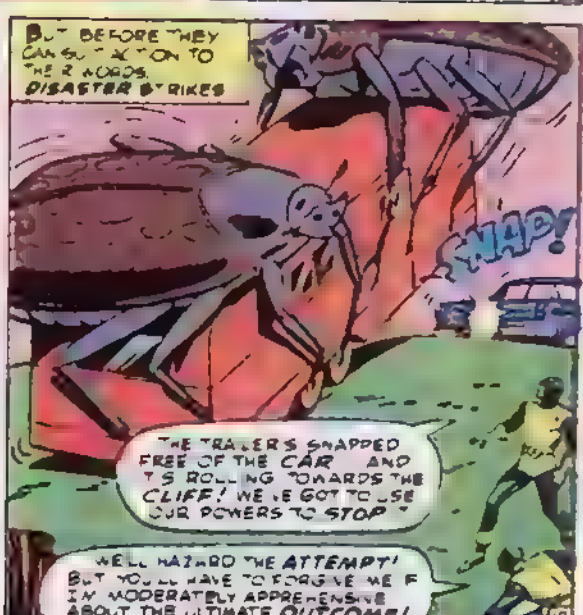
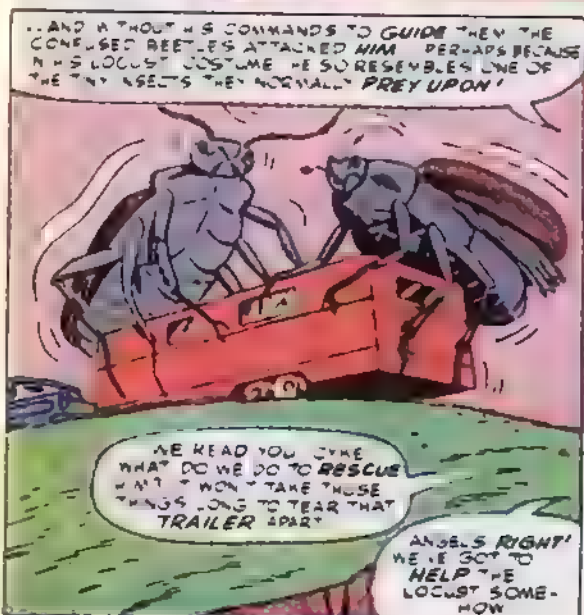
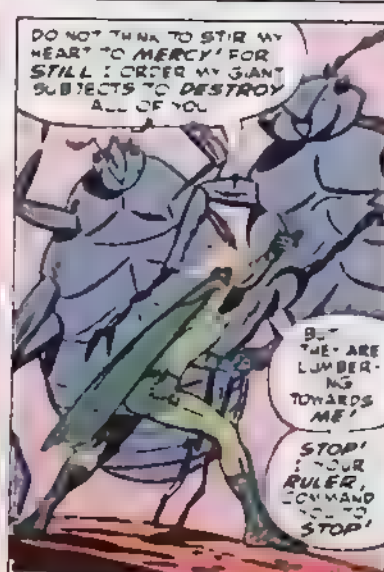
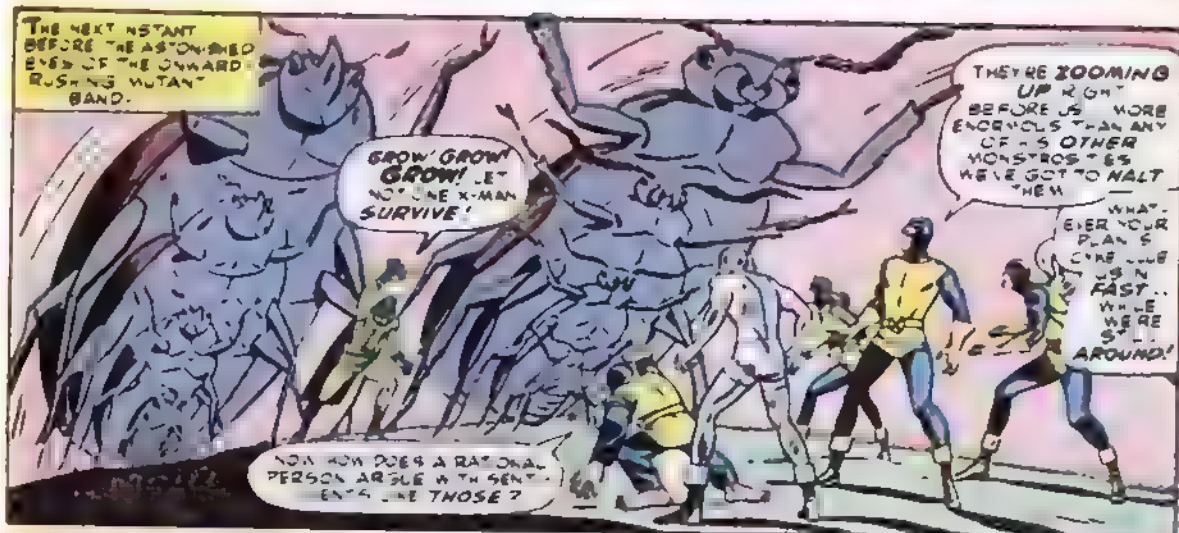
THE X-MEN HAVE INTERFERED WITH MY PLANS FOR THE FINAL TIME!

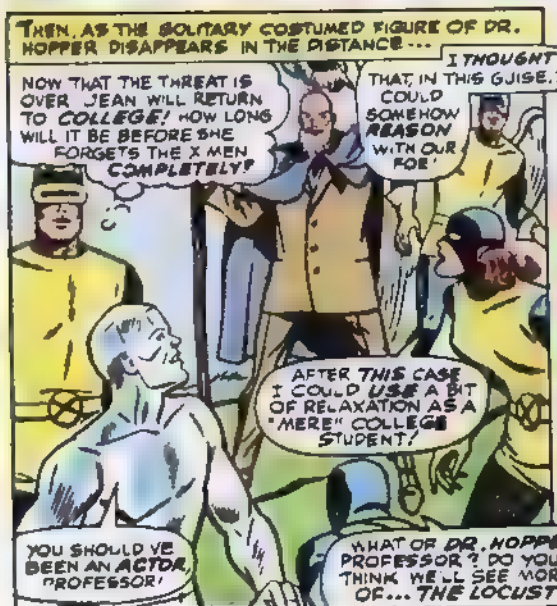
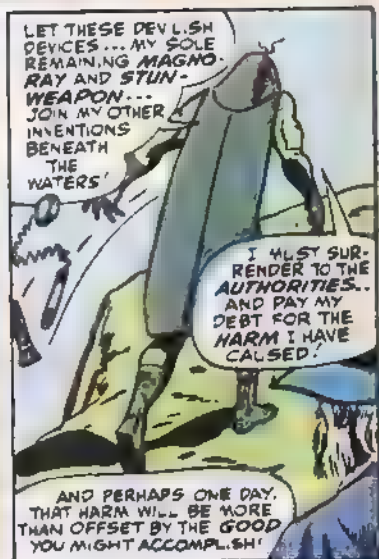
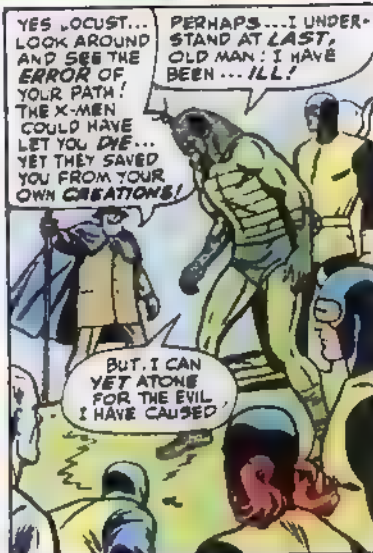
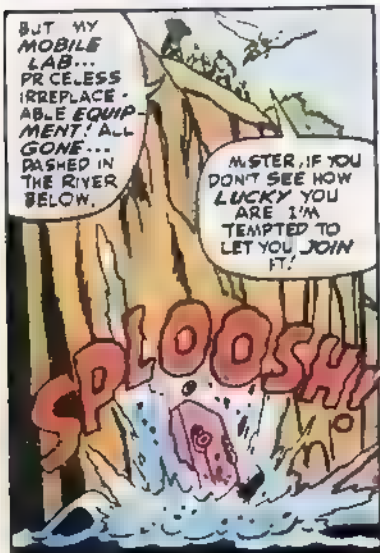
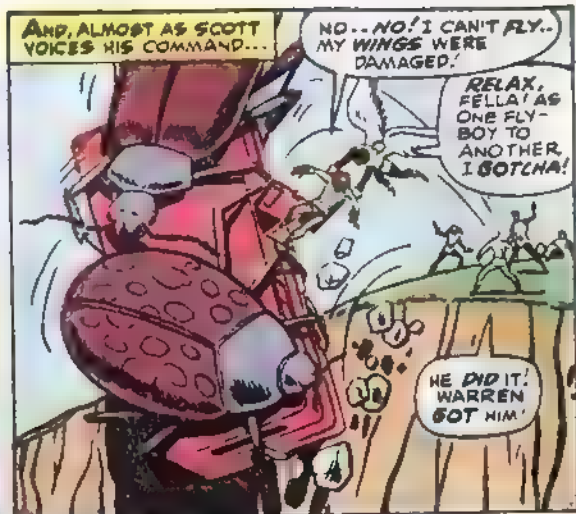
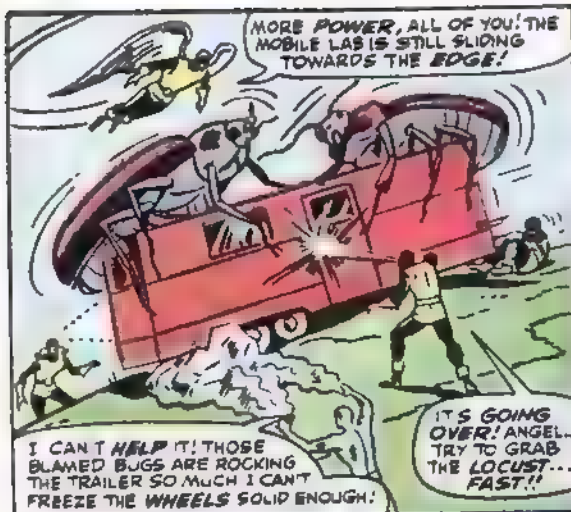
THESE TWO EGGS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRIPLY TREATED BY IONIC PARTICLES... WILL BE THE R DOWNFALL!



FOR NOW, THE MOMENT HAS COME FOR MY ULTIMATE CREATIONS!

SSST!





NEXT ISH:

WHO IS THIS MENACING FIGURE... AND WHAT INCREDIBLE POWER DOES HE STAND READY TO UNLEASH UPON AN UNSUSPECTING WORLD?



LET'S ALL FIND OUT TOGETHER... IN X-MEN #24! OKAY, PUSSYCAT?

NOTE: OUR LETTERS SECTION APPEARS AFTER NEXT PAGE..

NOW . . . FEAR NO MAN! DON'T BE BULLIED! TURN YOUR HANDS into "EXPLOSIVE" DEFENSE MECHANISM!

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KARATE . . . YAWARA, etc., included!



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FEAR NO BULLY protect yourself and loved ones from mugging, burglars, violence on the streets. You'll master Oriental tricks that give you the top advantage because you're skilled in using pressure zones: KARATE punches, Kung Fu kicks and paralyzing blows that can disable any attacker! You'll have attackers screaming for mercy as you drive them to their knees with the best secrets of many self defense methods.

OVER 240 ACTION PICTURES make every movement so easy to learn that the very first day you can amaze your friends with your new found power. Step by step in the privacy of your own home you'll discover how to quick-ly:

- ★ Turn 16 parts of your body into a weapon
- ★ Disarm deadly weapons from attackers
- ★ 27 vital body points that disable
- ★ Escape chokes from front or rear
- ★ Break holds, body locks, arm grasps
- ★ Use nerve zones to paralyze

Everything you should know to give you the confidence you MUST HAVE in order to protect yourself is revealed in your complete lesson manual of "Forbidden Oriental Fighting Arts". FAST RESULTS GUARANTEED at no risk to you—if you act now! These methods must work for you as they have worked for thousands OR PAY

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SPECIAL 30 DAY TRIAL must convince you that you can TURN YOUR BARE HANDS INTO EXPLOSIVE DYNAMITE. LICK YOUR WEIGHT IN TIGERS.

OR PAY NOTHING! Every minute you delay you run the risk of bad luck to yourself and your loved ones. Be smart! Send \$3.98 today for the complete Oriental Fighting Arts program and put it to the test. If you're not delighted with your new found POWER thirty days from now—return the program and your money back, no questions asked. You have NEW POWER TO GAIN, nothing to lose by mailing the coupon below, now. Tomorrow may be too late.

PRECISE PUBLICATIONS Dept. FO-11
Box 322, Lenox Hill Sta., N. Y. 21, N. Y.

☐ Make me a master of the Forbidden Oriental Fighting Arts. I enclose \$3.98 under your 30 day MONEY BACK Guarantee. I promise to use these secrets only for self defense, never as an aggressor.

Name _____

Address _____

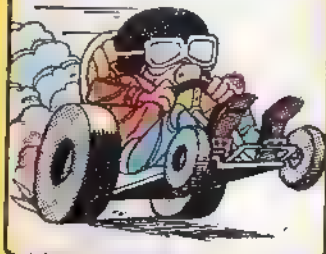
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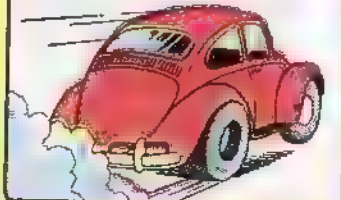
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NEWSWORTHY NOTES AND NUTTY NONSENSE FROM YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD BULLPEN!

We've a lot of exciting announcements for you this month, so let's not waste a second!

ITEM! Marvel super heroes on TV! Here's the official scoop so far — our first stations will begin showing animated films of five — yep FIVE — of our Marvel heroes in the middle of September. The characters to be featured will be Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Sub-Mariner, and the Hulk. All in full color, what's more, we'll use exactly the same art and stories as which have made our mag the sensation of the nation. Production is under way right now at the famous Brayray Lawrence Animation Co. in Hollywood, and our Marvel super heroes will not only be shown throughout the United States, but around the world as well. The list of cities is far too long to print in this space, so we suggest you contact your local TV station and inquire whether or not they'll be carrying the Marvel Comics Super Hero show. And I not tell them you'll never talk to em again.

ITEM! There are so many new Marvel products on sale everywhere that we can't tell you about them fast enough to keep up with the supply, but we'll try anyway. One thing we've got to ask you though — please don't send money to US for these Marvel goodies. They can only be purchased in stores. In fact, ever the gung-ho the bullpen have to go out and buy their own, while Merry Mally wouldn't, uh, change them, that is! Anyway, here's a partial list of some of the swaggy things to watch for right now: **PAPERBACK BOOKS** featuring the FF, Spider-Thor, and the Hulk, on sale in July. **PHONOGRAPH RECORD ALBUMS** packaged with actual Marvel mags, on sale near PLASTIC MODEL HOBBY KITS of Captain America, Hulk, and Subey, with the best of low on sale Sept. **HATS & MOODS** — the style of Spidey, Thor, Cap, and Iron Man — on sale Aug. **Spidey's d'Capite America COSTUMES** for Halloween, as well as play suits on sale Sept. **Colorful 3 1/2" BUTTONS** of all characters, on sale Aug. **MINI BOOKS** now on sale in gumball machines and panicky PINS on sale Aug. **BUBBLE GUM TRADING CARDS** and **TOY RINGS** selling like crazy right now! **ACTION DOLLS** of our Captain America and Sgt. Fury costumes, on sale June. **BOARD GAMES** and **JIGSAW PUZZLES!** Captain America now Spidey in Sept. **FLASH KITS** and **SWEAT SHIRTS** gauge rate in Aug. **FUCKER RINGS**, **CHARMS** and **STICKY LABELS** in vending machines only — on sale this summer. And fall these glamorous goodies don't grab you, we're liable to auction off Irving Forbush himself!

ITEM! We've previously told you about the **SGT. FURY** and **MILLIE THE MODEL**, who she! special king sized shoes which went on sale last month. So it's time to clue you in about the next two twenty-five centers which are now available. First there's the **THOR SPECIAL** featuring a brand new grand new action epic in which the indestructible Destroyer returns to challenge the combined might of all of Asgard. You'll see mighty Thor and his fellow Asgardians, such as Volstagg, Bader, Hugin, and Fandral, in one of the most sensational battles ever presented between two magazine covers! Plus a pair of book-length reprints of the two Thor sagas must be requested during the past year. Next there's our newest title **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SPECIAL!** Not only does it feature the

origin of Daredevil, and one of the earliest book-length smash hits of the Original Avengers, but it contains the biggest surprise of the decade! You'll see one of the rarest classics ever unveiled before your startled eyes — a feature-length battle between the ORIGINAL Human Torch and the ORIGINAL Sub-Mariner, as first presented more than twenty years ago. Also, just for kicks, you'll get a charge out of the first short short story which of Stan ever had printed in a comic mag, written when he was seventeen. This one's a real howlin' hairloom.

ITEM! For you cats who can't live another minute without a subscription to a Marvel mag, or want a word a gift to a friend, or even a enemy — we should worry, here's the scoop — they cost \$5 for twelve issues, which includes the postage, or \$2.50 Canada. Foreign subscriptions are \$3.50 and if you live on Mars, contact us for a special rate. Send your check or money order to Subscription Dept., Marvel Comics Group, 625 Madison Ave., NYC, 10017. And if you print your name and address, we'll clear offifty Merry Murphys, our favorite subscription sweetie, who'll reward you for a two-week Op-Zet!

ITEM! For years, fans have been asking to see a battle of King Kirby's King, but July Jack just fast-tracked the time to put down his pen, and pick up a brush. However, just for kicks, he both penciled and inked the fight scene depicting Captain America and the King, in the cover of **FANTASY MASTERPAGES #4**. So if you want a real kick, take repeated treasure, reach onto a copy right now!

ITEM! A persona, pleased as punch. Thank you from Stan to the Mary Marvel Matching Society, Princeton University Chapter, for the wonderful ovation he received when he addressed the Whig Club, suppic Society on campus. Recently Stan went back to get you warmth and enthusiasm for the party, though he enjoyed with the grand and glorious group at B.A. Hall!

ITEM! How about Darryl Denny O'Neil? Our poor, distraught bullpen buddy has been feeling so neglected because his name isn't featured often enough in these bulletins, to suit HIM that is. That he left the famous newspaper, term of our desk, **WHITER MANE'S HOME IN THASH CAN**. Dennis O'Neil, young writer, today moved into a east side ga bage car. Mr. O'Neil told reporters that he doesn't feel he should associate with human company. After all, he's not worthy to be in the Bullpen Bulletin, he explained, so he obviously isn't worthy to live with folks. Denny, boy, give up the garbage can and come home to us again! We love ya — honest!

ITEM! Remember we said we'd announce the result of our poll concerning our mentioning of Brandtch. Well, we're more confused now than ever. As the mag has been checked and tabulated, and it's evenly divided — fifty percent in FAVOR of our roasting our competition every chance we get, and fifty percent **OPPOSED** to our carrying the petty bickering of a s'criber! It looks as though there's nothing left to do but play it by ear — well, mention em when we feel so justified, and ignore em when we think they deserve it like

most of the time! So let's meet next ish face front. Think nice thoughts — and remember those immortal words of Irving Forbush, which somehow seem to have slipped our minds! See ya, Marvel!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Lineup of Some of The Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #55 It had to happen! The Silver Surfer returns to battle a lightning mad, fanatically jealous Thing! Not said.

SPIDER-MAN #41 A brand new supervillain for Spidey — and what a villain! He's called The Rhino — and he's all you hope he is — and more.

AVENGERS #32 Mystery, surprise, and the most merciless new villain of all make this one of the Avengers' greatest! Watch for The Sign of the Serpent.

DAREDEVIL #20 Looks like New Visions Much at Marvel! You — and DU — are about to meet the deadliest yet — in the strangest life of all!

THOR #112 No more words of ours can express the amazing shock that awaits you as you follow mighty Thor into the unknown, the unknown, the unfortunate black lair.

STRANGE TALES #149 Don't dare miss the surprising end of Spidey's battle with Arn — or the fantastic start of Kato's alliance with Dr. Strange!

SUSPENSE #82 Has the Iron Man beaten Iron Man at last? While you're wondering, wait! you see Captain America face the chaotic challenge of the Adaptoid.

ASTONISH #84 Mighty Namor, the helpless slave of a hooded archer, while the rampaging Hulk spreads panic thru the streets of New York.

SGT. FURY #34 Have you ever wondered how Fury, Capt. Sawyer, and Dum-Dum first got together? So this action-packed thriller is just for you.

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #5 Greater than ever, The FF, Iron Man, Dr. Strange, The Incredible Hulk! The Watcher, Humanat.

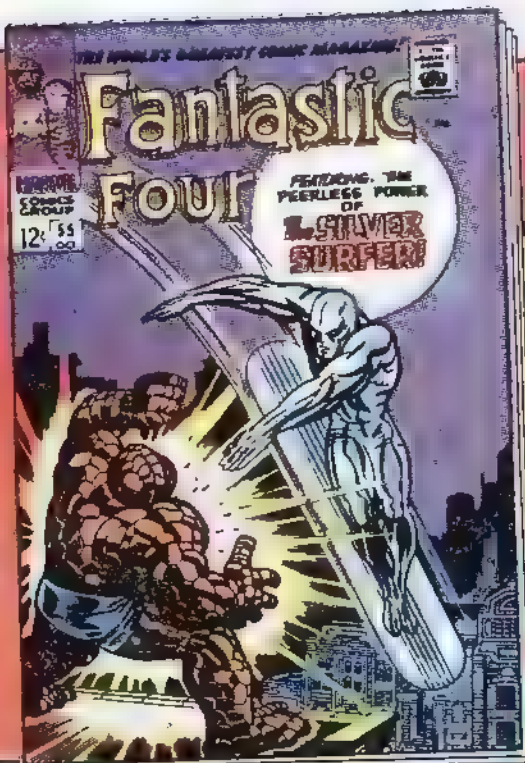
MARVEL TALES #4 The most marvelous line up yet — Spidey, Man, Thor, Ant-Man! And the Human Torch.

FANTASY MASTERPAGES #4 More Golden Age thrills with Captain America plus the greatest fantasy epic of all.

THOR KING SIZE SPECIAL #2 Brand new! The indestructible Destroyer returns to battle Volstagg, Hugin, Fandral, Balder, the cream of Asgard's might — and finally — the God of Thunder himself. Never before such a series of staggering spectacle! Plus two of our most requested Thor reprints!

MARVEL SUPER HEROES KING SIZE SPECIAL #1 The Origin of Daredevil, The Original Avengers vs. the Space Phantom! And the biggest sensation of all — from Marvel's Golden Age — the Original Human Torch battles the Original Sub-Mariner! Plus the first comic mag yarn since Stan ever wrote: **Hobob Boy!**

ANOTHER
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Bobby Hall
Old Hickory, Tenn.
Raymond Griffith
Indianapolis, Ind.
William Chambers
Salinas, Cal.
Bud Finger
Roslyn, N.Y.

James La Cierre
Utica, N.Y.
Daniel Gudone
Brooklyn, N.Y.
John Hassler
Arlington Mass.
Andy Hast
Columbus, Ohio

Douglas Boroughs
Sanford, N.C.
Alan Krause
Westwood N.J.
John Bess
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Rodney Kneriem
Carbondale, Ill.

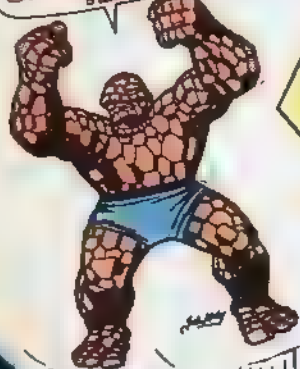
Bruce Hattenbeck
New York, N.Y.
Howard Koontz
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Christian Boos
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David Besbris
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Gloria Garvin
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VISIT
THE

X-MEN

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N.Y.

Dear Stan and Werner,

X-MEN #20 and #21 proved to be very exciting in every possible way! All I can say about this magnificently drawn, inked, and plotted story is to tell you guys to bring back Lucifer and the Supreme One — Lucifer's leader. The cover was an excellent masterpiece and was itself well worth a measly 12¢. I thought, however, that there may have been too many thought-balloons and bubbles. But, all in all, they were wonderful issues!

Mark Campbell, 1508 Rossman S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Thanks, Mark. And rest assured, frantic one, we'll keep close tabs on all our thought-bubbles in the future. In fact, that would be a good job for Honest Irving — we can make him a thought-bubble counter! (The only thing is—what'll we do with all the thought-bubbles we save by cutting down on them? Do you know of a good wholesale outlet?)



Dear Stan and Werner,

As we get the books late here, I'd just finished reading X-MEN #18 when a thought struck me. How can the giant crystal carried by the helicopters affect the Sentinels on page 12 when there was actually no opening at all by which the Sentinels' transmission beam could come across the crystal and thus be broken? You will note, of course, that the fortress which these Sentinels occupied had been pulled down under ground and camouflaged by

a deceptive mound of earth. I would have no objection whatsoever if this incident happened similarly on page 14 because then there is an opening for the crystal to be effective against the transmission beam of those Sentinels. Other than that, all is okay. I have enjoyed very much your fine mag, although it is quite hard to get here, besides costing a fortune. Best of luck to you guys in the bullpen! Keep on supplying your books and I'll keep buying. I buy nearly every one of your Marvel mags — except for MILLIE THE MODEL!

H. P. Chan, P.O. Box 289
Vientiane, Laos

Gosh! We always thought she was everyone's first choice, H.P.! It just shows how little we know of some fans' reading habits! Anyway, regarding your devastating query, we turned it over to Rascally Roy for him to rattle with, and this is the awesome answer he tossed back at us: "Well, it might be that the proximity of the voluminous crystal to the Sentinels overcame the impermeable matter separating them. Or it might be that magnetically-refracted interference beams from the crystal filtered into the Sentinels' headquarters thru the micro-ionic air-conditioner. And anyway, why ask me? I didn't write that one; Stan did!" (In other words, he doesn't know the answer, either!)

Dear Stan and Werner,

Gad! "The Misfit" — what a name for a super-hero. First of all, I hope you do not take that "sophistication" label too seriously. The word may warm the cockles of a New Yorker's heart, but it doesn't mean a thing anywhere else. Frankly, the word irritates me. I have seen it used too often as justification for an insufferable ego. A great many editors have made their magazines boring, basing their action on the statement that "the public is more sophisticated than it used to be." Most of those editors are now out of business or on the verge of bankruptcy. The truth of the matter is that the public has always had a greater variety of interests than the editors give them credit for. What bothers the public, more than anything else, is when a gaggle of editors decides to print only one thing and the newstands become monotonous. Of course, monotony could hardly be the word for Marvel comics. How could anything be monotonous with all that racket going on! As for the comments by college students on the use of Communists as villains — a college student is in the process of acquiring knowledge. The acquisition of knowledge is just a beginning. All knowledge must be tested on the anvil of life. Much of it must be modified according to the problems faced in the actual clash with reality. A college environment is a closed circle, and the average student will never know the real value of his knowledge until he begins to apply it in an open society. Too many college students ignore the fact that the majority of people left school long ago. These people have acquired their knowledge and are applying it to their

lives. The use of comic books for a repetition of the education that is the province of the schools would be foolish and an unnecessary intrusion into the lives of the readers.

D. Bruce Berry, 4354 N. Malden St.
Chicago, Ill. 60640

We enjoyed your letter, D.B.B., and are mildly staggered by its philosophical implications. But how come you sent it to us? Didja lose the address of *The Congressional Record*?



Dear Stan and Werner,

A letter in one of your letters pages explained that the Angel was born with his wings and that they had just sprouted when he was 13 years old. I would like to know what he does with his wings when he's just plain Warren Worthington the Third, from Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters?

Kim Montgomery, 5326 Juniata St.
Duluth, Minn. 55804

He takes his little wingies and folds 'em flat against his back, Kim. Then he holds them securely with a nutty kinda harness which we've shown a few times in some past issues. And, in the words of a renegade refugee from Brand Echh, "You can hardly notice a thing — except when he molts!"



Dear Stan and Werner,

X-MEN #20 and #21 were without a doubt the best so far. Not only was the origin of Lucifer revealed, but also the long-awaited story of the Professor's injury. The only thing I think I would have liked was a longer battle between the fun-filled robots and our friendly neighborhood mutants. This, however, didn't impair the story quality seriously. Yours till the Beast goes on a diet!

Charles Goering, 43-07 42 St.
Sunnyside, N. Y. 11104

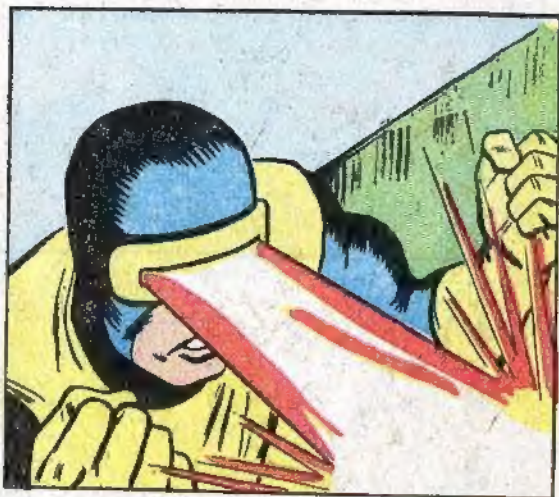
Aww, we don't think Hank is too fat, Charlie — Except for his toes, that is! But, where can you find a diet that'll just take weight off a fella's toes? The big toe, mostly! His little pinkies are cute as can be! (This may be the nuttiest answer you've ever read, but it served one purpose — it won us a bet with Fabulous Flo — she dared us to write it!)

Dear Stan and Werner,

Could you please tell me if Irving Forbush is any relation to the late Milton Forbush, the grand old man who gave Lincoln the theater tickets, gave Washington the cold, forgot the Alamo, and did all sorts of other nutty things?? Thanks very much, and keep up the good work!

Ervin Hole, 6430 Kies St.
Rockford, Mich.

We'll try, Erv. But, so far as Honest Irving is concerned, we've searched all our Marvel archives and find that he wasn't actually related to famous Milton Forbush. But, he was a distant cousin of Benny Forbush, who directed King Kong to the Empire State Building!



Dear Stan and Werner,

X-MEN #20 was an issue of variety. There were so many things that were excellent in it and so many things that I don't think were up to Marvel par. Your cover was great! Don't overuse the imitating-the-good-guys bit. You already did that once this month in DAREDEVIL. I myself don't like it when you get too many villains in one story. That was the one thing wrong with the last F.F. ANNUAL. The art was very good in X-MEN. I wish you hadn't changed the appearance of Unus. Didn't Unus have black hair? You're improving in your plots. I'm glad you gave us an explanation of why Lucifer is around. Your full-page mural on page 12 was terrific! I'm glad that you gave us readers the origin of Professor X's paralysis. Don't overdo the X-Men's vehicles — planes, subs, etc. 'Nuff said!

Mark Taylor, 810 N.E. 152nd
Portland, Ore. 97230

Okay, Mr. Taylor, we'll de-vehicle-ize our merry mutants as soon as possible. Also, we'll check with Unus' barber — if he's been dyeing his hair, we wanna know about it! — Thanks for cluing us in! And, we'll try to avoid overusing the "imitating-the-good-guys" bit. We'll come up with something real new and different — probably a batch of plots based on an "imitating-the-bad-guys" bit! Howzat for originality?

NEXT ISH: Never let it be said that there's anything provincial about Marvel's madcap mutants! In the past few issues they've fought menaces in the Southwest Desert, Central Park, the District of Columbia, and the Corn Belt. But now, they're going all the way — to Latin America, that is — as X-MEN #25 introduces one of the most amazing super-villains of all time! We don't wanna let any more cats out of the bag just now; suffice it to say that he's so sensational we've been tearing our hair just trying to come up with the perfect name for him. (Though it'd be just like us to pull another merry Marvel first and feature a twenty-page super-struggle with an anonymous antagonist!) So be here — you never can tell, the baddie might just turn out to be Honest Irving himself! Till then, don't step on any bearded locusts — and face front!

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